



ENHANCING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Ideas to improve parental engagement on Tapestry

SIGN PARENTS & CARERS UP EARLY

Did you know that you can add new children on Tapestry before they start at your setting or school and they won't take up any of your active children allowance on the system? Add them as 'enrolling' and you will be able to access features like 'Labels' or the 'About Me' section which allows parents to provide information on their child and familiarise themselves with Tapestry.

You could set up a child and sort access for a parent whilst on a home visit, or at an open morning before the child starts their sessions.



HOST A COFFEE MORNING

Invite parents to attend a session focusing on Tapestry and why it can be such a helpful communication tool. Give families a demonstration of how it works and particularly focus on the value of receiving observations from home that help to paint a fuller picture of a child's learning. This can also be a chance to troubleshoot any login challenges. There are lots of helpful guides on tapestry.info that you could share. We also have a dedicated page for all of our relative tutorials.



CONSIDER USING MORE FEATURES

Are you aware of the additional features on Tapestry that could save you time (and money)? How about adopting the 'Care Diary' to keep families informed about their child's day? Are there policies or letters that you could be sharing via the 'Documents' feature? Did you know that 'Memos' can be used to communicate messages between your setting and home? If you would like to suggest home learning for your children then 'Activities' could be helpful. 'Child Login' gives children autonomy to add their own observations and comments as well as manage their own activities. This is ideal for older children.



FOCUS FAMILIES

If there are particular families that are not engaging with Tapestry (the relative activity screen will inform you), it is important to find out why. Arrange a call or meeting to chat over whether they need any support, or let them know the benefits of seeing and contributing to a child's learning journal.

If there are technical challenges, invite the family to come in so you can help. If language is a barrier then consider using a browser that includes translation. There may be other barriers to engagement that you may not be aware of – as always, supporting families with sensitivity and respect will build your relationship with them. Tuning in and listening to parents/carers provides a good starting point.

TAPESTRY CHALLENGES

Consider setting regular challenges for your families to post onto Tapestry at home, then you can share the results with the rest of the children back at the setting or in school. If the child is able, they can do this themselves using the Child Login feature. You could use ideas from our infographic library.

How about:

- A shape hunt
- Film your child telling a joke
- Share pictures of your favourite meal

You can set these challenges using the 'Activities' feature and parents can reply with observations.