

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Planning family events

Planning to invite parents to regular family events during the year can help to build effective partnerships and provide opportunities for sharing best practice.



These top tips will help you to plan effective nursery events.

1. Every family is unique. When planning events, offer a range of days and times across the year and a variety of opportunities so parents feel genuinely welcomed
2. Ensure communication with parents (including on social media platforms) is easy to understand. Consider the best ways to communicate with parents who rarely attend the setting; find out how they would like to be involved
3. Identify a staff member to take the lead on family events, monitoring and reflecting on which events are more successful
4. Involve parents in simple reviews of the events provided, such as a sheet for parents to tick whether they were happy or not with the event. Remember parents viewed as 'hard to reach' may view the setting as 'hard to reach'. Notice whether there are groups of parents who do not engage with events and consider what to offer so that they can be involved
5. Examples of beneficial family events include:
 - Stay and play sessions, with a clear focus such as planting, den making, maths, mark making etc.
 - Active sessions, especially outdoors, such as sports days, maypole dancing, parachute games, scavenger hunts
 - Afternoon teas for different family members, such as fathers and grandparents
 - Story times, cuddling together on comfy cushions, including stories told in different languages
 - Engaging parents who are willing to support other parents
 - Encouraging parents to share experiences with their child when going on visits or days out, or an external visitor attends the setting
 - Provide practical ideas or packs to take home, based on information provided to parents at the event.

NDNA products to support you

- Publication: [Home learning](#)
- Factsheet: [Parent's guide to home learning](#)

Find more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna