

# Building strong links between home and child care services

Children benefit when their routines and experiences at home and in early education and care services are supportive of one another and there is a good working partnership between families and educators.

## What information is helpful to share with staff at the service?

- Your child's likes and dislikes, favourite toys, patterns of sleeping, eating and toileting, and any behaviour guidance used at home
- Issues relating to your child's health or wellbeing e.g. if they were ill over the weekend
- Any new interests or skills that your child is developing
- Significant events happening at home e.g. visiting relatives, moving house or the loss of a pet.

## What information is helpful for staff to share with you?

- Your child's daily experiences including who they played with, what they liked doing, any injuries or illnesses, or events that may have upset them
- Details about your child's relationships with other children and adults at the service
- Feedback on your child's learning and development.



## What types of routines and experiences should be consistent?

### + Behaviour

Having consistent behaviour guidance strategies establishes clear expectations and helps children to understand limits. It's important that appropriate behaviour is role modelled by both your family and staff to ensure your child receives consistent messages about what is acceptable behaviour.

### + Sleep and rest

Services need to comply with regulations, and best practice and safe sleeping guidelines. It's best to advise staff about the routines you use at home for sleep and rest, such as settling techniques and if your child has a comfort item like a blanket or special toy.

### + Sun safety

Ensuring that the 'slip slop slap' message is emphasised at home and at the service is extremely important to protect your child's skin from sun damage.

### + Toilet training

Share your toilet training routines and strategies to help at home and in the service e.g. the signs you can identify to tell that your child needs to use the toilet.

### + Hygiene

Share your hygiene routines e.g. the correct way to wash your hands. For a step by step process, visit [www.startingblocks.gov.au](http://www.startingblocks.gov.au).