

Don't panic – you already have the skills you need

I. Activity type and description

A list of recommendations to use existing teacher skills around supporting learning to be used when working with parents.

II. Material/resources needed

none

III. Instructions

- When you plan an event for parents, treat it as you would a lesson plan. What are the objectives? What do you want parents to take away from the event? And how will you know whether or not that has happened?
- Make a list of the things that you want to do around supporting parental engagement.
- On that list, make a note of the skills, materials and other things that will be needed.
- Be honest about your own skills – but don't play down what you can already do.
- Treat every encounter with parents as a learning opportunity, just as you do every encounter with your pupils.
- Include interactions with parents in your reflections on your teaching.

IV. References

'Even though working with parents probably didn't feature in your initial teacher training, you already have a lot of the skills you will need to do it effectively.'

You are already a highly-skilled professional – and becoming more highly skilled with each passing year. Those skills don't only relate to working with children, but to working with their parents, too.

Goodall, J., & Weston, K. (2018). *100 Ideas for Primary Teachers: Engaging Parents*, Bloomsbury Publishing. Page 9

V. Alternatives

n/a