

The Family Partnership Group at Argonne Child Development Center



Our Mission:

The goal as a member of the Family Partnership Group is to **partner with** and be a **contributing member of the center** by, but not limited to, **assisting in** the flow of **communication, organization and the planning of special events**. By working as a community representative of the Center, the Family Partnership Group will be a contributing factor in providing culture and adding to curriculum, as well as enhancing the care and flexible responsive services that meet and anticipate the needs of families and their children.

Who is the Family Partnership Group?

The Family Partnership Group is made up of parent representatives from all age groups. The goal is to have one Parent Room Representative from each classroom. The parent volunteers for about one year or the length of time their child is enrolled in that respective classroom.

What are the Family Partnership Groups responsibilities?

- To **represent** their respective classrooms at the Child Care Center acting, as an advocate for the children and their families.
- To **act as a channel** between families and staff of the Center bringing questions, concerns or appreciations about the program to the attention of the classroom staff and respective coordinators and directors.
- To **listen and encourage** open communication between families and staff.
- To work in close **partnership** with staff.
- To **plan special and cultural events** and related activities at the Center, (i.e., Annual Cultural Calendar and Anniversary Celebration).
- The Family Partnership Group is not a decision making body and does not work independently of the Center.
- The Parent Room Representatives do not use their position to express their personal opinions about the programs or staff.

When does the Family Partnership Group meet?

The Family Partnership Group will meet monthly with the Director. Meetings will be set up in person and have the ability to be accessed via conference line (888-886-4283, PIN 331-223-7774#). Our current monthly meeting is the first Tuesday of the month at noon in building 951. Additional meetings may be convened to discuss any urgent matter.

Family Partnership Group – Parent Room Representatives

Parents representing each classroom or age group (depending on the size of the center) meet with the Director on a monthly basis to discuss "how things are going," and to plan any desired special events or activities. The topics discussed stem from information collected by Parent Room Representatives and the Director. Minutes are generated from each meeting and distributed in the weekly email update on Fridays.

What is the role of a Parent Rep?

Parent Room Representatives volunteer for about a year or for the length of time their child is enrolled in the classroom. The Parent Room Representatives contacts the parents in the room to see how things are going and bring any questions, concerns or appreciations about the program to the meetings. Communication can be made via the telephone or e-mail. Teachers also utilize their Parent Room Representatives to send messages via company e-mail about special classroom events.

The role of the Parent Room Representatives is to help facilitate discussion of parent questions, suggestions and concerns within the classroom. Parent Room Representatives are not a decision making body and do not work independently. The Family Partnership Group meeting is a forum for discussion, problem solving and planning between families and administration. We ask that Parent Room Representatives do not use their position to express their personal opinions about programs or policies through Argonne Child Development Center communication systems. We expect Parent Room Representatives to remain objective and be a spokesperson for classroom families.

Why is the Parent Room Representative System Important?

We believe parents are full partners who are respected, valued and listened to. The Parent Room Representative System is important to parents because parents are the advocates for and the experts on their own children, and it is their responsibility (along with center faculty) to ensure their children have the care they deserve. Parent Room Representatives are an essential quality control mechanism. We expect parents to bring to light important questions and concerns, as well as share their expertise. Parents acting as informed consumers of childcare help us define what quality is at the center and provide better care and flexible, responsive services that meet and anticipate the needs of families.

Parent Room Representatives - We have added the children's names next to parent names to help parents who do not attend a way to identify those parents who are Parent Room Representatives.

Family Partnership Meeting Agendas and Minutes can be found in the weekly email update each Friday.