**Tips for Community Preschool Visits**

**by Shannon Barrow**

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1. Ask classroom teacher how you can best support her in working with the child when you aren’t there. Some teachers want you to model techniques and strategies with them while others prefer to read articles or resource material. A lot depends on the teacher, how the classroom is run and how much time the teacher has to work directly with you during your time in their classroom.
2. Incorporate learning activities and tasks into the regular classroom routine and schedule. Use naturally occurring learning opportunities.
3. Respect that you and the classroom teacher may have different teaching styles. That is OK. Be patient and give the relationship time to develop.
4. Establish early on when and how best to communicate with the classroom teacher. E-mail? Phone? Log book? Weekly face-to-face visits prior to visit? Let the classroom teacher indicate what is best for him/her and then try and work within their schedule.
5. Tie your activities into the current classroom themes/projects, etc.(if possible). If the teacher is willing and you both can find time, establish a few minutes each week to come up with ways to incorporate IEP goals in to classroom activities and routine.
6. Let the classroom teacher know how much you benefit from her insights and feedback regarding the child on your caseload. Classroom teachers can provide valuable observations regarding the child’s progress and how particular teaching strategies are working or not working.
7. Arrange your visits at a time that is convenient for the teacher.
8. Allow a few weeks for the children in the classroom to get used to having you there. At first your visits may be a bit “distracting”, but eventually, you will become a regular and welcome part of the class routine.
9. Small group activities (art, cooking, sensory) work well for including typically developing peers.
10. Visit during “specials” such as playground, library, etc. This gives you an opportunity to see the child interacting with children in other environments and at other times during the day. Make sure you give the teacher plenty of advance notice.