Plan in Vietnam
Promote role of parents in child care and development
Presentation overview

What role of parents in child care and development?

Parenting Education
Parents play critical role in child development. They assume key roles of, as below:

- **Being as the most child lover**
- **Being as most important caregivers in the early life of their child**
- **Being as close friend, and primary teachers of the child**
- **Providing assistance/instruction to the child on how to accommodate his/her positive attitude and behaviors to become good citizen**

> **Once, parents assume these roles they can support children to overcome well challenges during learning and development stages**
What is parenting education?

How to empower parents?

How to make sure the effectiveness of parenting education?
What is parenting education?

Why parenting education is important?

What behaviors do parents need to practice?
Why parenting education is important? What are its aims?

- **Why parenting education is important?**
  - The family is the most important influence on the child’s development and future outcomes. Parenting discussion groups can bring attention to parents’ vital roles and strengthen their skills.

- **What are the aims of the parenting education?**
  - Create awareness of the caregiver’s role in relation to supporting child outcomes;
  - Strengthen or modify parent’s attitudes, beliefs and practices related to caring for the child; and
  - Develop motivation to work as a team to address community issues that affect children’s development outcomes.
What do parents need to practice

• Apply positive behaviors in child care and education to support child development from the very beginning of the young children life

• Know how to connect between family, school and community to support their children to receive better quality care and education services

• Know how to cooperate with school in improving the learning environment and teaching/learning quality
What do parents need to practice

• Apply positive behaviors at home, that include:
  – Positive behaviors on child care, nutrition
  – Seek support to learn/share experiences on child care and learning/education
  – Seek support from service providers
What do parents need to practice

• Know how to connect between family, school and community
  – Support and cooperate with school in child care and learning/education activities
  – Share information/experiences with others in the community
  – Provide support to families with special needs
What do parents need to practice

• Know how to cooperate with school in improving the learning environment and teaching/learning quality:
  – Fully participate in school construction process
  – Support teachers to make learning/teaching aids using the local materials
  – Support teachers in language (especially in the early stage of school year)
  – Introduce indigenous knowledge into school activities
How to empower parents?

What knowledge and skills do parents need?

What approaches to empower parents?

Parenting education framework
What knowledge and skills do parents need?

• Knowledge about child development;
• Observation skills to notice how well child is developing;
• alternative strategies for problem prevention and discipline;
• knowing how to use everyday settings for learning experiences;
• skills to express feelings to the child and explain the world around; and
• knowing where to find support they need in childrearing.
What approaches to empower parents?

• Knowing what they want for their children and having the knowledge and skills to achieve these goals.
• Knowing how to analyze and solve their own parenting problems through reflection on practice;
• Acquisition of new skills; and the practice of sharing child rearing concerns and strategies with parenting group members, spouse and extended family members and neighbors.
• A parenting education program might focus on what an expert wants to “teach” parents. An empowerment approach focuses on “learning” and sustainable change.
What approaches to empower parents?

• **Parents capacities are improved through:**
  - Their participation in implementing and facilitating community based parenting education activities
  - Their practices of child care and learning/education practices at home and in the community
  - Studying, analyzing and applying new skills which have been successfully applied by others in the communities
  - Participation in PTA activities
  - Getting support from community based ECCD network
  - Participation in supporting child group activities in school and community
Parenting education framework

- Child health/growth
- Cognitive/psychosocial
- Protection/participation

Appropriate to child development milestones and available local resources
How to make sure the effectiveness and sustainability of the parenting education program

What is an effective parenting education?

How to make the parenting education effective?

Key principles to make the parenting education program effective
What is an effective parenting education?

• Is a program which includes not only a single approach to promote Parent’s role as “primary teacher”
• There are several approaches to support parents in their role as the primary teacher of young children. These include: parenting classes, home visiting services, family literacy promotion, mass media and BCC-IEC.
• These typically take the perspective that people other than a child’s parents know what the child needs and what the parent should do.
• A more effective approach is to generate a curriculum with the parents about supporting better child outcomes through in-depth discussion (dialogue).
How to make the parenting education effective?

• Establish clearly measurable goals at the start of the program;
• Focus more on the program’s impact on attitudes and behaviors, and less on participant satisfaction; and
• Incorporate research. Examples of research questions include:
  – To what extent does the program affect knowledge, beliefs and practices related to child development and parenting?
  – Does a child participating in an early childhood program receive additional benefits when the parent attends parenting education?
  – How do children of parenting group members perform in primary school compared to other children?
  – To what degree does parenting education affect parents’ use of health care services? Or other aspects of health, sanitation and nutrition?
  – Has the parenting program improved gender equality, child protection, and disability inclusion?
  – How has the parenting program increased engagement of fathers?
Key principles to make the parenting education program effective

• Promotes behavior change, especially amongst the most marginalized and EM groups
• Bottom approach
• Practical and feasible with the local resources
• ECCD concept needs to be understood well and reflected in action
• Engagement of all actors in M&E and documentation is supportive to advocacy for policy change
Key principles to make the parenting education program effective

• Helps parents to know what they want for their children and having the knowledge and skills to achieve these goals.

• Applies 4 cornerstones approached with specific and interlinked interventions

• Applies “positive deviance” approach to mobilize the local resources and ensure the program interventions’ relevance and sustainability
Key principles to make the parenting education program effective

• A policy to support parents to fully take over their positive parenting roles
• An institutionalized mechanism to promote parenting roles in ECCD, with much focus on integration/coordination among and between different stakeholders
• Positive initiatives/changes are documented and widely disseminated
THANK YOU