

Sharing information with parents

Child's strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy and friendly • Keen to be involved • Interest in social situations • Good receptive language (follows directions, understands instructions) • Concentration • Persistence
Areas of concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties with expressive language – although she likes to talk, she is very difficult to understand • Wants to interact with peers, but becomes frustrated (and sometimes aggressive) if her peers don't understand her • Has difficulty holding a pencil or small items • Difficulties with some gross motor actions – jumping, balancing, climbing
Strategies being used and their effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have started to use visual communication as well as adult support to enter play situations. K seems less frustrated and other children are also responding to this. • We are encouraging K to slow down when she speaks, and use gestures, actions, etc. to support her spoken words, although she is often in a hurry to tell us things! • We have been encouraging her to hold a thick texta and use her pincer grasp to pick up small items, especially during pack-up time • Low, manageable obstacle courses to encourage K to participate and feel successful.
Parent input	During the meeting you could add the parent thoughts

Tips for having conversations with parents:

(adapted from Reimagine Australia)

- Plan the meeting
- Have a private, quiet space available for the meeting
- Prepare well for the conversation (suitable time, child minding)
- Build rapport, offers a beverage to make them comfortable
- Acknowledge everything happening in their lives
- Ask the parents to share their observations by asking an open-ended question, "what have you noticed?" and then validate their comments
- Validate parent/s objections *"It's true children do develop at different rates and we could wait and see but all the research and my experience says..."*
- Present concerns in the context of what might be expected for children of the same age
- Be clear on the areas of the child's development that are cause for concern
- Acknowledge this can be difficult for the parents
- Share evidence to help the parents understand your concerns
- Present various options for next steps