



A Caring Partnership

UTE WARD

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Students' views of parents

'Parents just dump their children and expect us to educate them.'

'Some parents can't even be bothered to take home their child's learning journal.'

'Parents think because they pay they can treat us like servants.'



Practitioners' points of view:

- Practitioner as the professional and the expert
- Practitioner as service provider
- Practitioner as partner for the parent

(Venninen & Purola, 2013; Ward 2018)



Parents' views of themselves

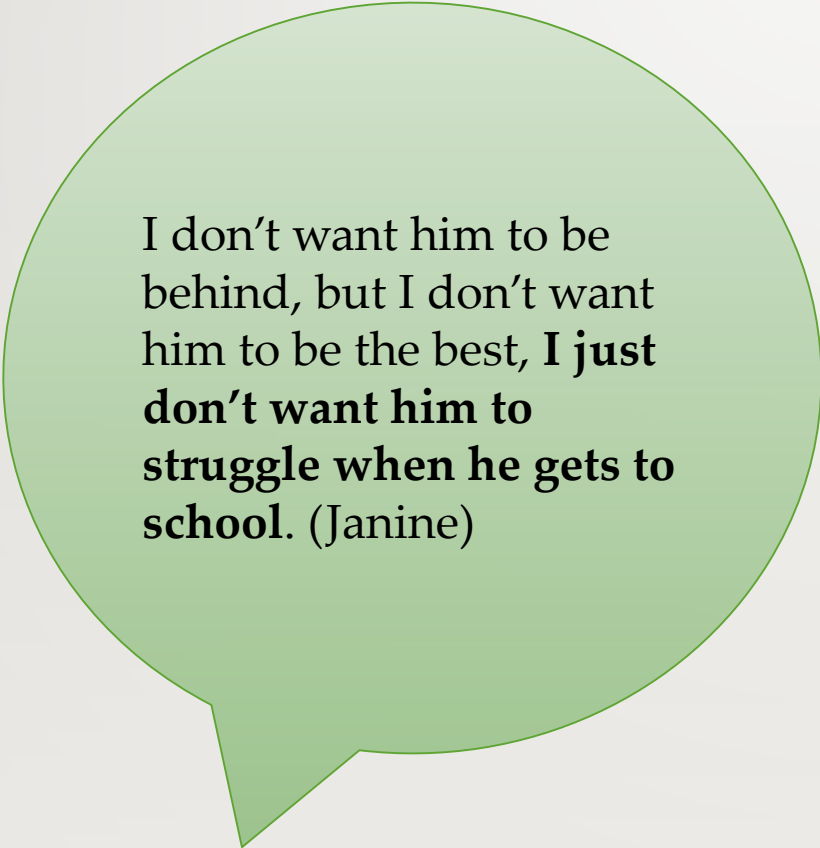

Parents are responsible for their children's learning and development

- Selecting the right nursery
- Changing settings if need be
- Asking for advice and support

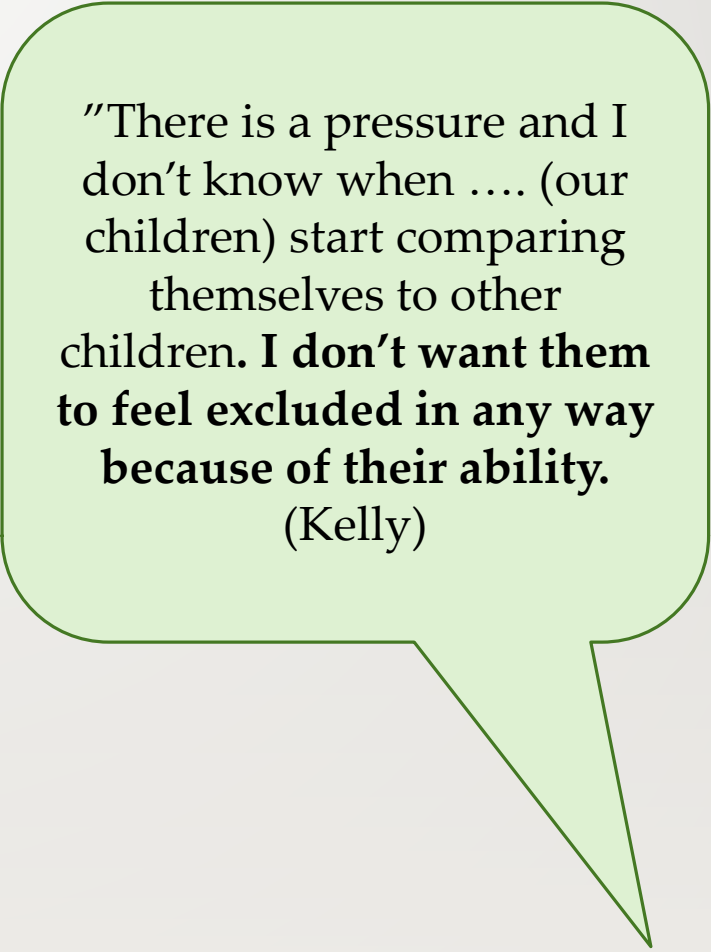


Parents' view of practitioners

- Practitioner as a resource for parents
- Practitioner as a caring professional
- Practitioner as children's educators



I don't want him to be behind, but I don't want him to be the best, **I just don't want him to struggle when he gets to school.** (Janine)



"There is a pressure and I don't know when (our children) start comparing themselves to other children. **I don't want them to feel excluded in any way because of their ability.**
(Kelly)

The Parent-Practitioner Relationship

- ‘It’s never a customer relationship.’ (Jake)
- ‘Looking after children is not like selling washing machines.’ (Mark)



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Partnership relationship

- Collaborating
- Working together
- Solving problems together
- Sharing responsibility

70% of parents said they wanted to have a partnership relationship with their child's practitioner.



A Caring Partnership

- To care and to be caring
- Steps in the process of care (*Tronto, 2013*)
 - *Caring about*
 - *Caring for*
 - *Care-giving*
 - *Care-receiving*
 - *Caring with*

Practitioners' views of professionalism

CRITICALLY REFLECTIVE EMOTIONAL PROFESSIONAL

- Caring/loving/compassionate
- Non-judgemental/fair
- Collegial
- Fun loving
- Reliable/dependable
- Committed/dedicated
- Empathic/altruistic (Osgood, 2010)

PROFESSIONALISM IN THE WORK WITH PARENTS

- Non-judgemental approach,
- Acceptance that parents' views may differ from their own views,
- Honesty,
- Empathy,
- Trustworthiness
- Friendliness
- Accessibility (Ward, 2018)



The Caring Partnership in context

- Parents are responsible for their children
- Practitioner and parents work in partnership
 - Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE, 2017)
- Parents are customers
 - More Great Childcare (DfE, 2013)
- Parents need parenting advice
 - Middle-class values for all



What do we value in early childhood practitioners?

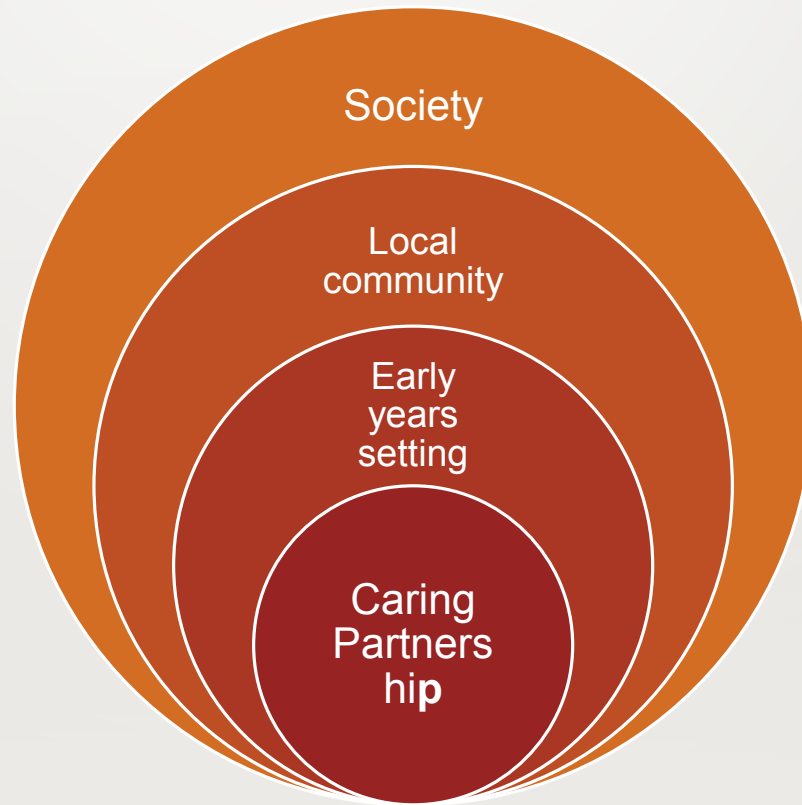
PARENTS VALUE

- Caring practitioners
- Practitioners who care for their children
- Practitioners who care for the parent and family

THE GOVERNMENT VALUES

- Education
- Assessment
- Outcomes
- Literacy and Numeracy

Caring Partnership in context





What about

- Solidarity?
- Showing empathy?
- Caring with each other?
- Taking responsibility?
- Being an active citizen?

What type of society do we want?



A Caring Partnership models

- Respectful behaviour
- Taking responsibility
- Caring with each other
- Supporting each other
- Negotiating
- Collaborating
- Solving problems together
- Finding compromises

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Contact details

Ute Ward

School of Education

University of Hertfordshire

Hatfield AL10 9AB

u.ward3@hert.ac.uk