

3. Bridging the communication gap

The relationship between family and setting is of paramount importance because babies and toddlers enter nursery with established communication patterns and preferences.

“Parents [...] are the experts on their children, and all the details that they know can make a difference to the ways their children relate to a new setting”

(Elfer et al, 2018)



Look at the photo. Think about how you welcome new families and what you know about the everyday lives of the very young children in your setting.



Bridging the communication gap

What the research tells us

Sharing how a baby communicates at home helps educators understand the communication preferences of the children they are working with, while setting insights enrich family understanding ⁽¹⁾.

- Limited information exchange between nursery and families can leave parents and carers feeling uncertain about setting routines, and less likely to share insights about their home environments ⁽²⁾.
- The invitation to share family songs with a setting can spark curiosity and dialogue about home cultures and act as a powerful relational bridge ⁽³⁾.

“During the Babysong Project, we became increasingly aware of the potential for ‘song’ to go beyond the setting to provide meaningful ways of making connections between baby rooms [...] and the families and cultures of the infants in their care.”

(Young et al, 2022)

Find out more:

1. Guard (2023a), 2. Elfer et al. (2018a),
3. Powell & Goouch (2015) 4. Young et al. (2022),

Download our pamphlet **Connecting with parents families and communities - a starting point** on the Froebel Trust website.



Understanding home communication patterns and preferences (including singing) supports settling and transitions.

