

Using portfolios to track development

As parents, we want to know as much about our child's development and growth and whether as yet

to others in the hope that we can see exactly how well our child is learning and growing.

Our Early Learning Centre has taken the success we had as parents and put it into practice

As a result, the staff at Years Valley Grammar Early Learning Centre connects with families to let them know how their child is doing in the early years and how to help them. To help answer these concerns, the staff develop a range of documents to give to parents each year to inform parents about the child's learning, growth and development during the time they are enrolled at the centre.

As well as each child having their own portfolio, the Centre has a "progress portfolio" which is a collection of photos and written reports that, together with the portfolio, provide families with

The Centre staff work with each child to see how their skills and abilities are gradually accommodated and shared with other children in the group. The staff also work with parents to help them understand their child's development. The staff understand that each child is unique and needs to be treated as such. Within each group of children there can be significant age gaps which can influence each child's development. Families of the Centre are therefore encouraged not to compare their child to another, but to see each child as an individual.

The Centre staff also work with parents to help them understand what their child is doing each day when they are not at home, so the centre also provides information to parents about their children via a digital photo frame and blog. Because the program offered is play-based, these additional methods allow us to show parents how their child is learning and growing.

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Feedback from past and present families shows the value and worth they place on their child's education and how they can help them to understand what their child is doing and challenge them.

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Mrs Nicky Collier,
Early Learning Centre Director