

Case study | Starting a Hub

Planning actions for the Hub

Learn more about Community Hubs with these real-life examples. In this case study, Salwa Salem, leader of Meadow Heights Primary Hub, tells us how she works with her Hub committee to plan activities for families.

What was the challenge?

Schools are very busy so it's not easy to organise activities. We have a Hub committee that includes our speech therapist, the vice-principal, about four parents and me. We work out what we want to do and prioritise the activities we want to do for the year. We usually have a list of 10 activities.

What worked? What didn't?

Our two-hour parenting sessions, which we run for six weeks at a time, are really popular. Parents are happy to know they're not alone struggling with their child. They say they're looking at things differently—that when they change the way they talk to their child, the child's behaviour improves, that if they play with their child for 10 minutes every day, it makes a difference. If I'd planned to run a parenting program when I first started it would not have worked. Parents would have said, 'Who are you telling us how to bring our kids up.' It takes about a year to build up trust, to make families feel comfortable.

“Work with a family member from the school to draw other parents into programs.”

Your advice?

Build trust with families for the first year. Be creative, be patient. You've got to try programs—some work, others don't.

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www.communityhubs.org.au/resources

Produced by the Centre for Community Child Health, January 2014

Community Hubs is a national program that links families and their preschool children to services and support, learning opportunities or the wider community. Community Hubs makes it easier for families to access the assistance they need by bringing local education, health, community and settlement information and services into a familiar and friendly place such as a school or community space.

Community Hubs is funded by the Australian Government in partnership with the Scanlon Foundation, the Migration Council Australia and Refuge of Hope.

The Community Hubs website and resources are funded by the Scanlon Foundation in partnership with Refuge of Hope and delivered in partnership with the Centre for Community Child Health at The Royal Children's Hospital and Murdoch Childrens Research Institute.