

International Parents' forum meeting

30th January 2012

NKS- International Parents' Forum had a brainstorming session on the 30th of January with more than 30 mothers.

The forum is called an International Parents Forum as NKS is hoping to involve parents from various countries and share their experiences of parenting, through video conferencing. It would help parents in Edinburgh to share and learn about parenting strengths and strategies of various cultures.

The session basically asked the parents to reflect on the following questions:

- 1) Are you willing to share your experiences of parenting in the forum?
- 2) How often do you give quality time to your children?
- 3) Does your stress at work impact on your behaviour with your children?
- 4) What are your expectations from the forum that you would like to see addressed?

The participants had an open and informative discussion that resulted in helping to identify issues for both parents and children and further helped to set the Forum's objectives on its basis:

Summary of the Discussion

Forum will:

- be a platform for sharing of experiences and cultural practices around raising children
- be a support for families and initiate more dialogues between families and institutions.
- be one of the contact points for newly arrived parents in the city.
- be an added support for the special needs children and their mothers.
- have a particular focus to increase the bilingual support in schools.
- be a formal structure for volunteers and voluntary opportunities within school.
- support schools to address a range of ethnic cultural issues.
- seek to negotiate with council for establishing more homework clubs in local areas.
- be a platform to voice parents' fears.

We hope to develop our next meeting agenda on the basis of the above discussion.

The date of the next forum meeting: 20th of February, 10:30 and 12:30 at NKS.

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