

Sample Parent Involvement Activities



Activities to Increase Parent Involvement

- ✓ Prepare Parent Contact Log in advance of the school year
- ✓ Teachers send home an introductory letter at the start of the year.
 - Start with information about you.
 - List a few goals or expectations for the year.
 - Include a supply list if appropriate.
 - Add a reminder to look for notes sent home with students.
 - Provide the best times/methods to contact you.
 - Let them know what type and when they can expect regular contact from you.
- ✓ Teachers can set up a system to keep track of which parents participate in events. A quick scan of a log periodically can provide teacher with information on parents that are not engaged and may need a more personal contact.
- ✓ Make use of multiple methods of contacting parents (newspaper, radio, fb page, school/district webpage, flyers sent home with students, and available district/school call out system)
- ✓ Consider expanding the school definition of parent involvement to include parents participating from home
 - Survey completion
 - Parent signatures on weekly folders sent home and asked to return
 - Involvement in activities that demonstrate participation outside of attending school meetings
 - ***Remember, we are building relationships with families, so you may need to start where they are and work towards achieving more academic engagement***
- ✓ Access assistance from local organizations, agencies, churches and ministerial associations
 - Notify local organizations and agencies of upcoming events and ask that they share with the public
 - Notify churches of upcoming activities at school and request that the information is shared and encouraged with congregations
- ✓ Get creative with “timing” of parent information sessions
 - Consider providing parent information in the middle of scheduled school events to increase attendance (to prevent parents from leaving a scheduled event such as a Holiday Show, before parent information is provided)
 - Set up parent/family information tables at school events and provide door prize tickets to each person that takes the time to visit and attend to the information tables (the more tables they visit, the more chances they have in the drawing)
- ✓ Provide personal invitations (face to face, phone calls, emails) to families of greatest need

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- ✓ Consider making home visits to specific families to begin building relationships
- ✓ Concentrate efforts on families with younger children (Early Learners) to try and build active engagement from the start
- ✓ Acknowledge parent volunteers for their contributions (newspaper, fb, etc.)
 - Parents want to be appreciated and can be encouraged to participate when they see others receiving recognition
 - Consider showcasing a different parent volunteer in each newsletter or on a monthly fb post
- ✓ Develop “make and take workshops” for parents to help create materials they can use with their children in the home (and demonstrate how to use those materials effectively)
- ✓ Teachers provide ways for parents to extend learning in the home through naturally occurring activities
 - Provide vocabulary lists to post on the refrigerator and use opportunities at home to practice
 - Ask parents to practice reading with their child or have their child read to family members
 - Provide specific suggestions of ways parents can extend learning at home (use activities such as sorting clothes in laundry by color, matching socks, assisting with measuring ingredients in recipes)
 - Share behavioral expectations and ask parents to help practice these skills at home
 - *Your staff can add many ideas to this list*
- ✓ Incorporate any of the above suggestions into scheduled *Family Reading Nights*

Additional Suggestions

- ✓ Schedule a *Technology Night* in conjunction with a Parent/Teacher Meeting
 - When parents arrive, have them sign up for a specific time during the evening to use a computer with their child to see programs that are used at school. Children love to demonstrate what they have learned so it may be a good family engagement moment.
 - Set up tables with parent information, demonstration of curriculum/content activities, etc., so parents can visit each table while they await computer time
 - This could be a good time to ask parents to provide information on special skills or talents they may have that they could share with others. (Do you have artists, craftsmen, story tellers, gifted cooks, gardeners, in your community that could be a good resource to others? This information could even be used to find parents willing to be highlighted for their talents in newsletters or on your fb page.
 - ***Again, you are working on building relationships and often people react positively to personal acknowledgement and recognition for their skills. Parents sometimes see school staff as “educated people that they have little in common with”. Showing respect and recognition for their skills can go a long way toward building solid relationships.***
- ✓ Consider inviting parents with special skills to demonstrate those skills at meetings held through your Family Resource Center. Start out simple, for example, invite parents to an event where

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they share recipes. This could develop into creating a school/family cookbook that could be printed and sold as a fund raiser.

- ✓ Family Resource Center can host parent support groups to address specific needs related to students with disabilities