

Parent Involvement in Education • No. 163 • 11/05

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What's Happening

1. Christie, Kathy. **Changing the Nature of Parent Involvement.** *Phi Delta Kappan*, v. 86, no. 9, p. 645 (2 pages), May 2005.

Author Kathy Christie highlights current parent involvement policies and activities around the nation.

2. Gibbs, Nancy, Amanda Bower, Melissa August, Anne Berryman, Cathy Booth Thomas, Rita Healy, Elizabeth Kauffman, Jeanne McDowell, Betsy Rubiner. **Parents Behaving Badly.** *Time*, v. 165, no. 8, p. 40 (10 pages), February 21, 2005.

Through interviews and actual scenarios, the authors showcase the complexities and challenges of the parent-educator relationship in modern society.

Quick Tips

3. Brandes, Joyce A. **Partner with Parents.** *Intervention in School & Clinic*, v. 41, no. 1, p. 52 (3 pages), September 2005.

These twenty suggestions serve as guidelines for fostering effective communication between parents and teachers, promoting healthy relationships.

4. Zelon, Helen. **Getting Involved at School.** *Scholastic Parent & Child*, v. 13, no. 1, p. 54 (2 pages), September 2005.

Ten helpful ways that busy parents can contribute to the welfare of their child's classroom.

Enhancing Communication

5. Carter, Karen and Michele Walker. **Personalized Education Plans for Parents.** *School Administrator*, v. 62, no. 4, p. 18, April 2005.

This article describes the communication benefits of Internet-based, Personalized Education Plans. Through a secure site, parents can "access grades, assessments, course schedules, attendance, discipline records, student interests, goals, learning preferences, lunch account balances and much more."

6. Wilford, Sara. **Building Relationships: Who's On My Team?** *Early Childhood Today*, v. 20, no. 2, pg. 9 (2 pages), October 2005.

In this article the author proposes practical ways to include parents in their children's education, thereby opening up communication and building trust.

School-to-Home

7. Davern, Linda. **School-to-Home Notebooks.** *Teaching Exceptional Children*, v. 36, no. 5, p. 22 (6 pages), May/June 2004.
An excellent, thorough article “summarizing advice from parents and provides specific suggestions for better home-school communication.”
8. Lam, Lamson T. **Test Success, Family Style.** *Educational Leadership*, v. 61, no. 8, p. 44 (4 pages), May 2004.
Teacher Lamson T. Lam shares how family test preparation workshops effectively raised student test scores and increased parent involvement in the classroom. Article identifies how to establish positive communication links with parents.
9. Lawrence-Lightfoot, Sara. **Building Bridges from School to Home.** *Instructor*, v. 114, no. 1, p. 24 (4 pages), August 2004.
Through her interviews and research, the author reveals ways that teachers can “develop strategies, tools, and skills for supporting productive dialogue with parents.”
10. Margolis, Howard. **Resolving Struggling Learners’ Homework Difficulties: Working With Elementary School Learners and Parents.** *Preventing School Failure*, v. 50, no. 1, p. 5 (8 pages), Fall 2005.
“This article...focuses on how teachers can (a) help struggling learners succeed with homework, (b) help parents who want to help their child with homework, and (c) listen to and problem solve with parents.”

Learning and Behavior Issues

11. Darch, Craig, Yu Miao and Peggy Shippen. **A Model for Involving Parents of Children With Learning and Behavior Problems in the Schools.** *Preventing School Failure*, v. 48, no. 3, p. 24 (11 pages), Spring 2004.
In light of research suggesting “parents’ involvement in their child’s educational program will result in increased learning and fewer discipline problems,” the authors have “presented a model for developing positive, on-going, professional relationships with parents of children with learning and behavior problems.”
12. Kai Yung (Brian) Tam and Mary Anne Heng. **A Case Involving Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Parents in Prereferral Intervention.** *Intervention in School & Clinic*, v. 40, no. 4, p. 222 (9 pages), March 2005.
The authors’ success story demonstrates that “parent

involvement should play a central role in any rigorously conceived prereferral intervention plan.”

Administrative Strategies

13. Comer, James P. **The Rewards of Parent Participation.** *Educational Leadership*, v. 62, no. 6, p. 38 (5 pages), March 2005.
For the past 30 years, a Connecticut school has witnessed the “transition from reluctance to enthusiastic participation when making a coordinated, systematic effort to create inclusive school cultures.” This article details the results of their School Development Program.
14. Kyriakides, Leonidas. **Evaluating School Policy on Parents Working With Their Children in Class.** *Journal of Educational Research*, v. 98, no. 5, p. 281 (18 pages), May/June 2005.
The author describes a “policy on partnership that encourages parents to work with their children in school,” resulted in improvement of student attainment in core subject areas, parent and child attitudes towards the school policy, teacher-parent communication and student behavior at home.
15. Wilford, Sara. **Getting Input from Parents.** *Early Childhood Today*, v. 18, no. 5, p. 9 (2 pages), March 2004.
The succinct article also applies to elementary administrators and teachers as well as early childhood educators. Loaded with practical suggestions for involving parents.

Literacy

16. Grande, Marya and Joyce Anderson Downing. **Increasing Parent Participation and Knowledge Using Home Literacy Bags.** *Intervention in School & Clinic*, v. 40, no. 2, p. 120 (7 pages), November 2004.
“This article describes two home-literacy projects that use take-home bags to make parents aware of grade-level expectations and activities, materials, and ideas that may help prepare all young learners to meet literacy standards.”
17. Steward, Frances and Diana Goff. **Parent Involvement in Reading.** *Illinois Reading Council Journal*, v. 32, no. 4, p. 53 (4 pages), Fall 2004.
Contains literacy websites, books and activities “designed to enhance elementary school student’s reading experiences with family members at home.”

Research Results

18. Deslandes, Rollande and Richard Bertrand. **Motivation of Parent Involvement in Secondary-Level Schooling.**

Journal of Educational Research, v. 98, no. 3, p. 164 (12 pages), January/February 2005.

Based on “survey responses from 770 parents of adolescents in five Quebec secondary school...the authors examined four psychological constructs of parent involvement: (a) relative strength of parents’ role construction, (b) parents’ self-efficacy for helping adolescents succeed in school, (c) parents’ perceptions of teacher invitations to become involved, and (d) parents’ perceptions of students’ invitations to become involved.”

19. Dockett, Sue Perry, Bob. **What Makes a Successful Transition to School? Views of Australian Parents and Teachers.** *International Journal of Early Years Education*, v. 12, no. 3, p. 217 (14 pages), October 2004.

The authors conducted a survey of 355 parents and 166 teachers of young children starting school to determine what factors demonstrate a child had a successful first two terms of school. Results between parents and teachers vary greatly, implying the need for collaborative interaction when children enter school.

20. Machen, Sandra M., Janell D. Wilson and Charles E. **Parental Involvement in the Classroom.** *Journal of Instructional Psychology*, v. 32, no. 1, p. 13 (4 pages), March 2005.

The authors examine research on the value of parental involvement, specifically “addressing the amount of contact that parents have with school and the amount of time they volunteer in the classrooms.” They identify the “practices and policies that encourage parent trust and involvement in the process of schooling.”



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Suggested Internet Resources (last accessed November 15, 2005)

Parent School Relationship. The Educator's Reference Desk

http://www.eduref.org/cgi-bin/print.cgi/Resources/Educational_Management/Community_Relationships/Parent_School_Relationship.html

Comprehensive website for educators. "Parent School Relationship" page includes online discussions, current research, guides on involving parents in the classroom, and links to other relevant portals and resources.

Involvement in My Child's Education. United States Department of Education

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

Links to federal resources for parents that range from facts about NCLB to accessing supplemental services for children to tips on helping children succeed in school.

National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education

<http://www.ncpie.org/>

Provides current news; assistance in understanding NCLB; free and low-cost quality publications for parents, educators and administrators; and information on improving educational outcomes for children with disabilities.

Parent Leadership Group

<http://www.parents.ksaplus.com/framesplpubs.html>

KSA-Plus and Center for Parent Leadership created the practical resource guide "Case for Parent Leadership" to "promote the kind of parent involvement that will have a sustained impact on student learning." Publication may be downloaded for free.

Parents & Community. National Education Association Resources

<http://www.nea.org/parents/nearesources-parents.html>

Quality site devoted to assisting parents with homework, getting the most out of parent-teacher conferences, promoting reading in the home and developing their child's critical thinking skills.

Parents and Schools: Partners in the Future. Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

<http://www.cincinnati.library.org/booklists/?id=parentsandschools>

A list of books on parenting and schools. Includes materials on providing a child with a healthy start, obtaining the best education, parents and teachers as partners, homework, study skills, and test taking. For help locating these materials, contact the Alaska State Library.

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