The Power of Supporting Children and Families

CONNECT FOR SUCCESS
SEPTEMBER 2015
Research concludes “the evidence is consistent, positive and convincing: families have a major influence on their children’s achievement in school and through life. . . .”

U.S. DOE Parent Involvement Non-Regulatory Guidance Document, April 2004
Supported by ESEA

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)

Parental Involvement ... the participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities including:

- parents playing an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
- parents being actively involved in their child’s education at school
- parents acting as full partners in their child’s education
Objectives

- To present foundational knowledge/research that supports Parental/Family Involvement in schools

- To provide samples of some of the required components of Parental Involvement in Title I

- To share ideas and resources to support your efforts in increasing Parental Involvement opportunities that recognize parents and caretakers as equal partners in children’s achievement
What does the research say?

According to *A New Wave of Evidence*, a report from Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (2002), “When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more.”

The report, a synthesis of research on parent involvement over the past decade, also found that, regardless of family income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs
- Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school
- Graduate and go on to postsecondary education
What does the research say?

- When parents and teachers have cooperative and collaborative relationships, students succeed both academically and socially (Dixon, 1993; Eccles & Harold, 1993; Henderson and Berla, 1994; Jeynes, 2005; Jeynes, 2007).

- The most accurate predictors of student achievement in school are not family income or social status, but the extent to which the family creates a home environment that encourages learning, communicates high, yet reasonable, expectations for the child’s achievement, and becomes involved in the child’s education at school (Henderson & Berla, 1994).
What does the research say?

It is important to note that a lack of participation from parents does not necessarily reflect negligence on the part of the families; for example, single parent families may not have time, financial resources, or knowledge to help with projects (Wanat, 1992).

Barriers to collaborative practices include: cultural barriers, lack of knowledge, feelings of incompetence, economic resources (transportation, phones, computers), lack of time, or a history of negative experiences with the school (Eccles & Harold, 1993).
Joyce Epstein’s “Big Six”: Family-School-Community Partnerships

1. **Parenting**: Help families build on their strengths and parenting skills. Identify resources and support to help families nurture children.

2. **Communicating**: Plan and conduct workable methods of two-way communication focused on child’s learning.

3. **Learning at Home**: Provide ways for families and school staff to develop learning goals and continue children’s learning at home and in the community to meet the goals.
Joyce Epstein’s “Big Six”:
Family-School-Community Partnerships

4. **Volunteering:** Recruit and organize volunteer help from families and the community.

5. **Decision making:** Include parents in school decisions to develop leaders and represent all families in the school.

6. **Collaborating with the Community:** Identify and connect community resources to strengthen families, school programs, and student learning.

http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/index.htm
Source:
Epstein, Joyce  *Measuring Your Family-School-Community Partnerships: A Tool for Schools*
"Whose child is this?" I asked one day
Seeing a little one out at play.
"Mine," said the parent with a tender smile
"Mine to keep a little while.
To bathe his hands and comb his hair,
To tell him what he is to wear,
To prepare him that he may always be good,
And each day do the things he should."

"Whose child is this?" I asked again,
As the door opened and someone came in
"Mine," said the teacher with the same tender smile
"Mine, to keep just for a little while.
To teach him how to be gentle and kind,
To train and direct his dear little mind,
To help him live by every rule,
And get the best he can from school."

"Whose child is this?" I asked once more,
Just as the little one entered the door
"Ours," said the parent and the teacher as they smiled
And each took the hand of the little child
"Ours to love and train together.
Ours this blessed task forever."

~Author Unknown
Participants will work in small groups and develop examples.
Misconceptions about Parental Involvement

- Parents should go to school only when invited
- Parent involvement means “being there physically” to support teachers and school events
- Stay-at-home mothers serve as “homeroom mothers”
- Parents visit school mainly for children’s performances and open houses
- Parents know what “supporting their children at home” means
Let’s define “truths” about Parental Involvement

- Participants will share what we know as “truths” from experience in the field
Thinking “Outside the Box”
What does the Title I PRC do?

- Serves all families
- Title 1
- Partnership
- Community
- Listen
- Problem solve
- Families
- Children
- School
- Information
- Library
- Resources
- Books
- DVDs
- Sessions
- Games
Title I Parent Resource Center
Promoting collaborative partnerships between families, schools, and communities to enhance educational outcomes and achievement for Title I students

- Sample Resources:
  - Mobile PRC
  - Twitter
  - Loops
  - Newsletters
  - Outreach
  - Coordinated Services
  - Check-out System
  - Parent Workshop Sessions (site-based and individualized to support specific needs of Title I schools)
Parents as Partners...

You are your child’s first and most important teacher. It is both your right and responsibility to take an active role in your child’s education! Parents can become involved with children’s learning in a number of ways. Here are some possibilities:

- Sign your child’s tracker daily
- Assist your child with homework
- Ask your child about their day at school
- Review your child’s completed work folder together
- Sing, talk, read and encourage your child every day
- Eat lunch with your child
- Volunteer to help your child’s teacher, either in the classroom or at home
- Contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend family events, concerts, shows, and parent workshops
- Participate in the Title I Parent Advisory Council
- Join the PTA/PTO

JOIN US! Connect the pieces of school success:
Parents – Students – Teachers – School Community
WORKING TOGETHER

All items are available to check out for FREE!
You may borrow materials for 2 weeks!

What we have:
- Educational Games
- Books
- DVD’s

How it works:
1. Borrow items
2. Play with them
3. Return them to your school

Follow us on Twitter @SCSPRC
Spotswood Elementary School

Homework Club Kick-Off!

Wednesday, October 29, 2014
6 - 7 p.m.
Light dinner and children activities will be provided

Homework may be a time of frustration for both you and your child. How about turning it into a time to celebrate your child’s strengths and encourage them to take responsibility for their homework? Join us as the Parent Resource Center Staff share hints to make homework a hassle-free time.

Each registered family will receive a FREE homework kit!
Children’s activities will be provided.
For more information please contact Marvin Srivastava or Judy Moritz (540) 898-1514

Salem Elementary School & the Parent Resource Center present:

Parenting with
Love & Logic

Parenting tools to keep you cool in the face of hot situations!

Date: Friday, November 21, 2014
Time: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Location: Salem Elementary Book Room
Light refreshments will be served
For more information: Daniella Smith (540) 786-8218

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“Homework Club Kick- Off” Registration Form
(Please return to your classroom teacher by Monday, October 27, 2014)

Name of child ____________________________
Number of children attending _________
Number of adults attending _________

“Love & Logic” Registration Form
(Please return to your classroom teacher by Friday, November 14, 2014)

Name of child ____________________________
Number of children attending _________
Number of adults attending _________
Parent Communication Samples

Thank you for contacting us. We hope the information we are sending will be helpful. We welcome your comments regarding the materials you have received.

Sandy Sprague
Parent Facilitator
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Peggy Dougherty
Teacher Facilitator
pdougher@scs.k12.va.us

Ayasha Qasimi, Secretary
aqasimi@scs.k12.va.us

Location:
John J. Wright Educational & Cultural Center
7555 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22551
(540) 582-7583 Option 6

Did you know...
...the PRC has books & DVDs available on a wide variety of topics including: Parenting, Family activities, Internet safety, IEP's, Nutrition, Grief & separation, Disabilities awareness, Reading & Math fun, SOLs & test-taking tips, and much more. Items may be checked out for 2 weeks. The full PRC resource list is available on our website.

...if you are not able to visit the PRC personally, you may call us (540-582-7583) option 6 and request books or games. We will send them to your child's school through the school mail. Your child may bring them home or you may pick them up from the school office.

...you may call the PRC and make an appointment to talk with a staff member about: Parenting concerns, Educational support, Community resources, Disabilities awareness, IEPs, and Reading & Math assistance.

...the Mobile PRC brings resources to various elementary schools throughout the school year. Check the PRC website for our calendar of events to see when it will visit your school. You are invited to bring or send materials to take home to support your child's learning.

...the PRC offers Information Sessions on a variety of topics such as: Homework tips, Behavior challenges, Grandparents raising grandchildren, Internet safety, Bullying & conflict resolution, etc. Check the PRC website for our calendar of events. School staff and PTO/PTA members may make a request for a session to be offered at your school. Call us!

Save the Date!
Mobile PRC
Tuesday, November 11, 2014
@ Salem Elementary

Homework Tips
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
@ Robert E. Lee Elementary

Mobile PRC
Tuesday, September 23, 2014
@ Berkeley Elementary
Spotswood Elementary School

Homework Club Kick-Off!

Wednesday, October 29, 2014
6 - 7 p.m.

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Number of children attending ________

Number of adults attending ________
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It takes teamwork ...

QUESTIONS?


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