

PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Parents can work together with their schools by assisting with:

1. Writing or revising the Title I plan.
2. Developing the Parent Compact.
3. Developing high standards for all students by volunteering to participate on a curriculum committee.
4. School planning by representing parents on the School Improvement Team, either at the school or district level.
5. Writing the Annual Report.

Parents can involve themselves with their schools by:

1. Joining the school's parent organization (PTA, etc.).
2. Volunteering in classrooms/after school activities.
3. Tutoring children in specific content areas.
4. Attending open houses and parent teacher conferences on a regular basis.
5. Contacting teachers/counselors by phone or mail to discuss status of your child.
6. Attending board meetings on a regular basis.
7. Reading all communication sent home from the school (Newsletter, etc.).
8. Cooperating with suggestions given by school personnel for your child's academic success:
 - a. Building self-confidence
 - b. Positive/negative reinforcement to build motivation.
 - c. Setting goals.
 - d. Reinforcing study skills.
 - e. Developing responsibility.
 - f. Checking homework for quality work.
 - g. Signing whatever documentation the school has developed to assure that your child is working toward high standards (eg. Report cards, nightly agendas, assignment journals, etc.).
9. Attending parenting workshops, if offered.
10. Joining specialized groups within the school that promote specific short term projects (Beautification of school grounds, fund raisers, chaperon for different events, etc.)
11. Seeking service organizations and local merchants to join in a school-to-work program if offered by the schools.
12. Looking into "The Partnership for Family Involvement in Education" program and talking to school officials about participating. (Visit the U.S. Department of Education website at <http://www.pfie.ed.gov/>)

PARENT-STAFF INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The following practical **parent-staff involvement** activities are contributed by Jeanne Oakes, General Education Director, Mason Lake Intermediate School District. If you have questions regarding the following activities, please contact Ms. Oakes at (231) 757-3716.

1. Start inviting parents of pre-schoolers to each program you schedule.
2. Schedule meetings at convenient times.
3. Give notice and reminders.
4. Offer the same event more than once.
5. Provide transportation.
6. Provide childcare.
7. Hold to one hour time limit.
8. Provide refreshments.
9. Offer door prizes.

Parent-staff-student ideas:

1. Generate ideas that produce bonding or quality time. (Walk the Mackinac Bridge.)
2. Opening day activity- pig roast, hot dogs, etc.
3. Parenting Can Be Fun Workshop/Conferences.
 - a. Financial planning and budgeting.
 - b. From conflict to problem solving.
 - c. Family adventures within one hour's drive.
 - d. Helping your kids choose alternatives to alcohol or drugs.
 - e. Alternatives to television.
 - f. Computers and the family.
 - g. The less stress family.
4. Math festival.
5. Health night/physical fitness.
6. Family read-a-thon.
7. Family science fair.
8. Summer make-and-take (reinforcement activities for summer).
9. MEAP night.
10. Coffee with the principal.
11. Pumpkin decorating/pumpkin facts and scary stories.
12. Family computers-student TECHsperts. (Children show their parents.)
13. ADD/ADHD luncheons.
14. ABCs for parents (preschoolers).
15. Parenting difficult children luncheon.
16. Family topic series-parents set series topics.
17. Self esteem night. (What can parents do to develop self esteem in their children.)
18. Family board game series.

19. Positive discipline.
20. Classroom/class newsletters/hot lines.
21. Super Saturday program for enrichment and extension.
22. Wall of fame (highlight academics and perfect attendance, etc.)
23. Invite media to everything.
24. After school clubs.
25. Monthly learning nights with a potluck.
26. Foreign language night.
27. Forums on community concerns (drug abuse, violence, gangs, etc.)
28. Community bulletin board.
29. Career days.
30. Help days for senior citizens-community service (adopt a home, yard, etc.)
31. Student produced programs and TV/radio programs.
32. Extended school programs.
33. Interactive web site "Breaking News" (parents can E-mail principals, teachers).
34. Transition programs to each feeder school (teas, tours).
35. Programs for parents of pre-adolescents, and adolescents to help them understand the developmental changes their children are experiencing.
36. Programs for multi-cultural awareness and appreciation.
37. Learning together calendars.
38. Coupons for attendance (from local merchants).
39. Morning or after school homework club--aides, volunteers, senior citizens.
40. After school tutors (volunteers, National Honor Society).
41. Parent involvement night concurrent with a dance or other social event (parents come and students get in free).
42. Involve students and parents in school beautification projects.
43. Have parents share their expertise.
44. Make effort to involve fathers, single parents, foster parents, non-custodial parents and grandparents raising students--progress reports, report card copies to each parent.
45. Keep children safe: Teach students how to be safe when they're home alone.
46. Volunteers can help struggling students read tests, listen to their reading, chaperon field trips.
47. Develop homework books/behavior books to help communicate and help students get organized.
48. Job hunting for young teens.
49. Setting goals.
50. Frequent traveler passports with students' pictures on them--each time a parent attends an event, the child gets a stamp in his/her passport. After four stamps, his/her name goes into a drawing.
51. Create something special for non-English speaking families.
52. Grow a school garden - "Roots and Shoots."
53. Build a family time line night (History).
54. Reading aloud to your children workshop.
55. Classroom in a mall (rotate classes weekly).

56. Parent school lunch/hallway patrol.
57. Learn a language lunches.
58. Drop in nights-replaces one fall open house.
59. Project nights-have all their materials needed for parents help students with a project.
60. Slide show/power point presentation/video editing project.
61. Homework hotline/activities hotline.
62. Classroom newsletters.
63. Teacher training on how to work with families.
64. Workshops for parents/families on:
 - a. Enhancing your Child's Self Esteem.
 - b. Should my Child Start Kindergarten?
 - c. Grandparents' Rights.
 - d. Ask the Doctor.
 - e. The Stranger in your Living Room TV/MTV.
 - f. Blended Families of the 90s.
 - g. Too Smart for Strangers.
 - h. Music/Art and the Young Child.
 - I. Caring for the Elderly Parent.
 - j. Let Kids be Kids - Am I Pushing Too Hard.
 - k. Let's Talk-Bridging the Gap.
 - l. How to be an Askable Parent.
 - m. Dating and Relationships.
65. Parent survey at least every three years.
66. Independence issues - staying involved while letting GO.
67. Lesson and lunch - have parents join in a lesson just before lunch and then have lunch with their child.
68. Have an adult chair in the classroom besides the one for the teacher.
69. No TV week.
70. Translate newsletters - even for one family.
71. Volunteer at school/vacation day.
72. Provide time for home visits (stipends).
73. Record textbooks, highlight textbooks (pay someone to do this).
74. Parent coordinator.
75. Ask local businesses to help support parent involvement \$, door prizes, materials, release time by employers for parents and speakers.
76. Turn schools into community centers.
77. FAQ sheet/handbook.
78. Hire a bilingual and parent advocate.
79. Bilingual homework hotline.
80. Parent of the month.
81. Welcome wagon.
82. Teach parents how test taking and study skills are taught at school so the same procedure may be reinforced at home.

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