

## POSITIVE EFFECTS OF FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Research shows that strong family involvement in K-12 education has numerous benefits for children and youth.

Higher student achievement and academic performance · Better school attendance · Greater completion of homework · Demonstration of more positive attitudes and behavior · More children continue their education · Children learn quicker and retain more when families reinforce academic concepts and work directly with their children on learning activities at home ·



Positive outcomes have been documented in the areas of litera-

cy, mathematics, music and writing when parents/families are involved in the educational process · Families are encouraged to create a home environment that fosters learning · Families provide more support and encouragement to their children at home · Improved rapport between school personnel and families · Special needs and disadvantaged students have the most gain from parental/family involvement.



### NEWSLETTER IDEAS:

- Upcoming topics/concepts being taught
- Birthdays/Student of the Week
- Thank you section for families - *Family Praise*
- Information concerning classroom events/special guests/field trips
- Activities to do with students at home
- School-wide programs or news
- Test taking skills
- *Items Needed for the Classroom* - request items to be sent from home for a special project/activity

It is easiest to create a template and keep the sections the same for each newsletter so that you do not have to create it from scratch each time.



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## FAMILY INVOLVEMENT



*Benefitting students  
through partnerships  
with families*

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## REQUIREMENTS OF FAMILY INVOLVEMENT ASSIGNMENT

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND UPLOADED IN TASKSTREAM:

- INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS
- DOCUMENTATION LOG OF ALL FAMILY CONTACTS
- PROOF OF TWO WAYS YOU INVOLVED FAMILIES IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION FROM TWO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES.

You must receive approval from classroom mentor teacher prior to implementation of all family involvement activities.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR INVOLVING FAMILIES:

### I. HOME/SCHOOL CONTACTS

- Homework Sneak Preview that outlines homework for the week (Can include newsletter on back for convenience.)
- Newsletters (see *Newsletter Ideas*)
- Take home activities - e.g., books for families to read to child or asking families to listen to child read aloud; easy at home science experiments; math activities that reinforce skills taught, etc.
- Develop index size cards with tips for how families can foster their child's success with explicit examples of at home and school activities - how to help with research assignments, test preparation, etc.
- Positive notes home (not just daily

behavior log developed by mentor teacher) or Teacher/Family Journal.

- Send home information on how families can play an active role in creating a healthy environment - enroll child in sports and other physical activities, provide healthy snacks, cook with child, etc.
- Send home instructions for families to prepare materials for future lessons - items to cut out, topics to research on the internet, directions to prepare/make something (e.g., playdough) - This works great with parents who are not able to come into the classroom due to work or other children at home.
- Add a line for a parent/guardian signature on homework assignments/test papers - Be sure to send home a note explaining to parents/guardians that you want to involve them in their child's education by asking them to sign items sent home.

### II. CLASSROOM INVOLVEMENT

Families can:

- Assist during centers or work time.
- Tutor students/Listen to them read/assist students with writing.
- Assist students with editing/typing papers/stories.
- Assist with games/activities in P. E. or in regular classroom.
- Work with students at computers.
- Attend and/or assist with planning special classroom events - holiday parties, good behavior parties, etc.
- Make copies/file papers/sharpen pencils.
- Assist students with make-up or remedial work.
- Play educational board games with small groups or individual students.
- Laminate/cut out materials.
- Put up bulletin board displays - with materials prepared by you.
- Listen to small groups play instruments - Family members who were previously in band/chorus could assist students in music.

### III. SPECIAL EVENTS/PROGRAMS

- Invite parents/families to special programs/events hosted by your school or your class that you planned and/or organized.
- Reading Week: Invite family members to be guest readers, share something unique or an area of expertise. This could be related to curriculum or a class event - e.g. student of the week.
- Career Fair: Invite family members to share about their job/career.
- Chaperone a field trip that you planned.
- Invite families to attend and assist with activities such as *Coffee Connection*, *Donuts with Dad*, *Muffins with Mom*, *Are you Smarter Than a Fifth Grader*, etc.
- Ask families to assist with school-wide walks, field days, etc.
- Ask families to attend and/or assist with planning a fitness jamboree to encourage physical fitness.
- Invite families to attend a choral/band concert that you plan.
- Assistance with programs/activities such as spooky science fair/math fair, etc.
- Plan a poetry night or story night and allow families to come listen to students read.
- Ask families to come in to view creative technology projects created by students — power point presentations, videos, etc.
- Plan a family bingo night, movie night, healthy heart night, etc.
- Plan an environmental community clean-up day.
- Plan a State Testing Workshop for families.

Completion of the Family Involvement Assignment is not restricted to or limited to activities on this brochure. Feel free to come up with your own creative ways to involve families in your students' learning.