Parent Involvement: It Starts and Ends at Home

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Learning Objectives

• What is Parent Involvement?
• What Research Says about Parent Involvement & Academic Achievement
• Joyce Epstein’s 6 Types of Parent Involvement
• Creating a supportive learning environment at home
• Establishing a successful homework space
What is Parent Involvement?

According to the National PTA:

**Parent Involvement** is the participation of parents in every facet of children’s education and development from birth to adulthood, recognizing that parents are the primary influence in children’s lives.
The Research Says...

• School aged children spend approximately 70% of their waking hours (including weekends and holidays) outside of school.

• The earlier parents get involved their child’s education, the more powerful the effects.

• The most effective forms of parent involvement are those, which engage parents in working directly with their children on learning activities at home.
The Research Says...

When Parents are Involved, the Students have:
- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation, better self-esteem
- Lower rates of suspension
- Decreased use of drugs and alcohol
- Fewer instances of violent behavior
Joyce Epstein’s 6 Types of Parent Involvement

1. Parenting
2. Communicating
3. Volunteering
4. Learning at Home
5. Decision-Making
6. Community Collaboration
Type 4: Learning at Home
The School’s Responsibility-Sample Practices

• Information for families on skills required for students in all subjects at each grade.
• Information on homework policies and how to monitor and discuss schoolwork at home.
• Information on how to assist students to improve skills on various class and school assessments.
• Regular schedule of homework that requires students to discuss and interact with families on what they’re learning in class.
• Calendars with activities for parents and students at home.
• Family math, science, and reading activities at school.
• Summer learning packets or activities.
• Family participation in setting student goals each year and in planning for college or work.
Type 4: Learning at Home
The Parent’s Responsibility

Link Schoolwork to real life examples:
• Listen
• Encourage
• React
• Praise
• Guide when needed
• Monitor progress
• Discuss—not “teach”
Type 4: Learning at Home

Results

Results for Teachers
• Better design of homework assignments
• Respect for family time
• Recognition of equal helpfulness of single-parent, dual-income, and less formally educated families in motivating and reinforcing student learning
• Satisfaction with family involvement and support

Results for Parents
• Know how to support, encourage, and help student at home each year
• Discussions of school, classwork, and homework
• Understanding of instructional program each year and of what child is learning in each subject
• Appreciation of teaching skills
• Awareness of child as a learner
Type 4: Learning at Home

Results

Results for Students

• Gains in skills, abilities, and test scores linked to homework and classwork

• Homework completion

• Positive attitude toward schoolwork

• View of parents as more similar to teacher and of home as more similar to school

• Self-concept of ability as learner
“Home is your child’s first learning environment. Simplify it to improve focus—both theirs and yours.”

-Stacy Erickson
Home Key Organization
Creating a Supportive Learning Environment at Home

• Set reasonable expectations for your child
• Read to your child
• Create a home environment that encourages learning
• Create a balance for learning within the family
• Show an interest in your child’s learning
• Encourage success and be accepting of mistakes
• Teach self-discipline
• Create a setting conducive for studying/homework time
A Successful Homework Space

• Establish a homework routine
• Put a desk or table in the homework area
• Remove clutter and ensure adequate lighting
• Make the space pleasant
• Keep school supplies on hand
• Enforce quiet time in the homework area or monitor music/tv when preferred by the child
• Make it easy to go mobile when needed
What does a successful homework space look like?
Mobile Homework Stations
Homework Caddies
MAKE A homework bucket

INCLUDE:
- workbooks
- notebooks
- extra blank paper
- pencils & markers
- art supplies
- scissors
- ruler
- glue stick
- healthy snacks
- encouraging notes
Dear Child

Use the space below to write an encouraging note to your child. This note could be about school, sports, friendship, or anything that will motivate them and put a smile on their face. When you are finished, cut across the dotted line and hide it in their desk for a nice surprise tomorrow morning!
Unity
I dreamed I stood in a studio
and watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child’s mind.
One was a teacher; the tools he used
were books and music and art;
One was a parent with a guiding hand
and a gentle, loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled
with touch which was deft and sure.
While the parent labored by his side
and polished and smoothed it o’er.
And when at last their task was done,
they were proud of what they’d wrought.
For the things they’d molded into the child
could neither be sold nor bought.
And each agreed he would have failed
if he had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
and behind the teacher, the home.

-Author Unknown
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