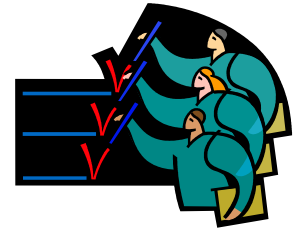


Twelve Promising Practices Schools Can Do to Engage Parents



1. Start a Partnership Action Team of six to 12 parents, teachers, the principal and other staff, students and/or a community member. Teams meet monthly to set family engagement goals and activities that improve school goals. See more at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/fscp/action-team.html>.
2. Offer many opportunities for parents and teachers to talk throughout the year so they get to know each other and build relationships.
3. Give parents three questions to ask children what they learned that week in various subjects. Provide web links so parents can help children answer questions or learn more. Parents keep kids learning beyond the classroom.
4. Make a positive phone call home for every student in your class. Or, have students decorate three post cards which their teachers can use to send home with positive news.
5. Communicate with families in their home languages, including in written materials. Use translators at school events.
6. Offer family involvement or volunteer opportunities at various times and locations so more parents have a chance to participate.
7. Provide opportunities for parents to get to know each other, especially parents of children in the same classroom. One idea is to have classroom suppers planned by parents, students, and teachers.
8. Create a service project that involves the whole school with families and the community. Be sure to include family and community representatives on the planning committee.
9. Set up a “buddy” system for parents, especially new parents, but any parents who would like a mentor to help them navigate the system. Start with a meal (potluck or free meal) to bring parents together. Teachers might identify parents they think would enjoy (benefit from) having a mentor family. Keep it friendly.
10. Hold parent meetings wherever families work, eat, live, shop, and go to church.
11. Arrange meetings for early childhood teachers and childcare providers, PreK-12 staff, and families to share goals and activities so all children arrive at school ready to succeed.
12. ASK families for their ideas and feedback on ANYTHING related to children’s learning, and do it frequently throughout the year through surveys, focus groups, parent group meetings, the school newsletter, and the Partnership Action Team.