

Parent Involvement Questionnaire

Are We Encouraging Parent Involvement

Reprinted from Highlights Parent Involvement Program - Teacher Resource Book.

Here are some questions to ask yourself and your site to see how well parent involvement is being encouraged.

Do we welcome parents?

- Are there signs that specifically say "Parents Are Welcome"?
- Are they written in every language represented at our school?
- Do we arrange for interpreters and translations for non-English speaking parents?
- Do we know the names of individual parents?
- Do we have program or policy that encourages parents to visit their children at our school?
- Do we have a procedure for welcoming new parents midyear?
- Do we have a schoolwide mission for parent involvement?
- Are individual teachers equipped with strategies for encouraging parent involvement on a day-to-day basis?
- Do we make a special effort to involve male family members?
- Do we sponsor social gatherings for parents and families?

Do we communicate well with parents?

- Do we often send letters and newsletters home?
- Do we make telephone calls for cheerful reasons and kind reminders or just for discipline problems?
- Do we make efforts to communicate beyond the written word?
- Do we send parents information that they find genuinely helpful?
- Do parents have a voice in decisions about their child's education?
- Are parent-teacher conferences scheduled at convenient times?
- Do we have strategies for reaching parents unable or unwilling to attend conferences?

Do we listen to parents?

- Do we have a parent suggestion box?
- Do parents have representation and a voice on our school's decision-making committees?
- Are parents trained to be effective committee members?
- Do we have a parent group or association?
- Do we go beyond our school's walls, into the community, to reach more parents?

Do parents have status at our school?

- Do we sponsor events to honor parents and grandparents?
- Do we look for opportunities to have parents share their skills at our school?
- Do parents get awards, too?
- Do we have a parent volunteer program?
- Are parent volunteers entrusted with significant responsibilities? Do they feel important?

Do we provide useful parent services?

- How do we assess the needs of parents?
- Are our attempts at parenting workshops perceived as helpful or judgmental? Why?
- Do we provide resources to help parents work with their children at home?
- Do we try to make parent meetings enjoyable and inviting?
- Do we have an agency referral system in place?
- Have we established effective links with community and/or religious organizations that serve our families?