

Building Family-Teacher Relationships

Community & Expectations

- Schedule a community walk to understand the community in which families live (practitioner)
- Start your year by conducting family interviews to learn about family dynamics, student learning at home, resources, and challenges (practitioner)
- Develop and facilitate a quarterly workshop to norm on expectations and goals for the quarter (practitioner). In this session you can review Socio-emotional goals, math, reading, etc. You can provide an overview of key projects and model for parents how they can check for understanding at home.

Teachers in Early Childhood provide resource bags for the quarter. Each grade can do the same.

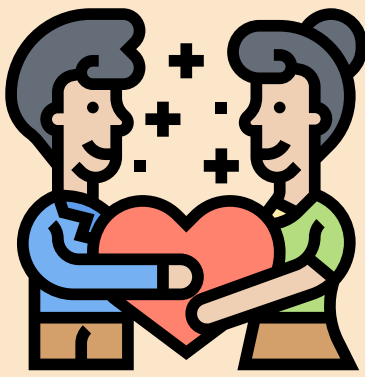


SCHOOL WIDE

- Implement Annual Family-School Surveys to measure parent engagement, areas where the school can grow, parent perspective, challenges parents are experiencing, etc.
- Create School quarterly (Google Forms) surveys to monitor parents' engagement months.
- Offer school-wide workshops by grade span to prepare parents for effective parent-teacher conferences and prepare them to ask questions and engage in conversation.
- Offer training that prepares parents to understand information and actively advocate when they are part of school councils.
- Send biweekly/monthly newsletters that share information and reflect the school culture.
- Have a yearly scope and sequence for parent programming. Don't check off boxes. Be intentional.

Effective Communication

- Don't assume that everyone reads emails or newsletters. Initial assessments help determine if there are language or literacy barriers and which families may need a call to access information.
- Call parents when their children did something amazing or reached a goal! Sometimes, parents only receive calls when something negative has occurred. Would you want to answer the phone if you only received these calls?
- Home visits: Be intentional, respectful, engage with the family, offer other places to meet other than their home if they do not feel comfortable.

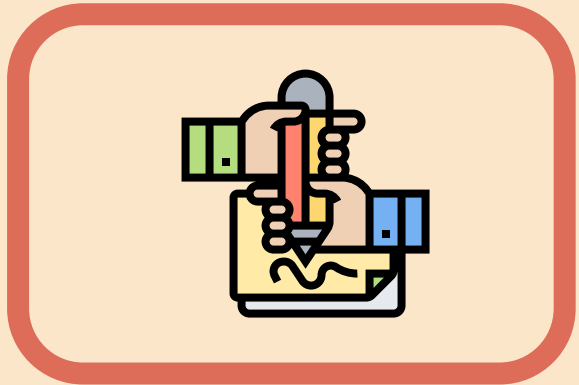


Additional Tips

- A digital run-through of the day/ Parent shadowing program. Create protocols for parents to come into the classroom and observe. With their protocol, they can take notes, and at the end, they can debrief with the teacher, admin, or family engagement coordinator.
- Build a culture for reading- middle schoolers and parents can read the same book and debrief/journal. This gets submitted to the family engagement coordinator.
- Invite parents to read in English, Spanish, or any language or to tell a story.
- Develop family math nights to model for parents how to support their children and simultaneously build relationships.

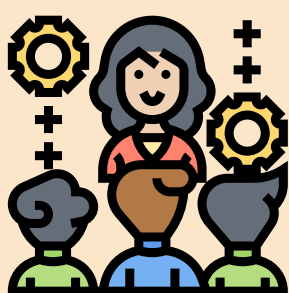
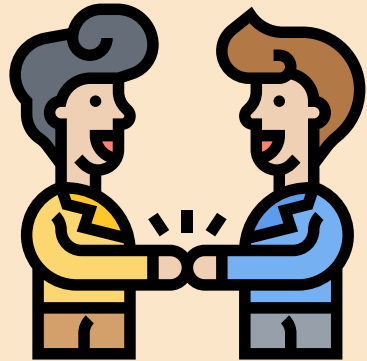
Feedback

When parents or teachers engage in conversation, it is important to remember that they are a team with the same goals and expectations they normed on at the beginning of the year and each quarter. Avoid assumptions about one another. Instead, ask clarifying questions.



Open Communication

- Students must also be part of the team and part of the decision-making processes. Students need to understand expectations and understand the role each team member plays.
- Both teachers and parents must consistently replicate systems at home and school.

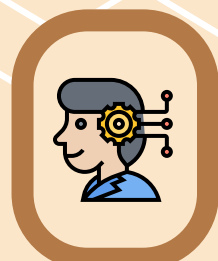


Honor Expertise

Parents hold important knowledge about their children. Teachers must recognize parents as experts in home learning and treat them as colleagues. Parents must also understand teacher expertise and treat them as a colleague. Mutual respect is key!

How to continue to cultivate strong relationships as students move to different grade levels?

- All the initial interviews, progress documented, and family communication must be kept as an intake/case folder for each student. A teacher introduction and handoff help build trust as students transition to new teachers. This is key in every space at school.
- Office staff need training focusing on emotional intelligence to interact with families.
- Supervision staff must consistently report incidents to ensure parents trust school processes.
- School-wide alignment on how staff interact with parents.



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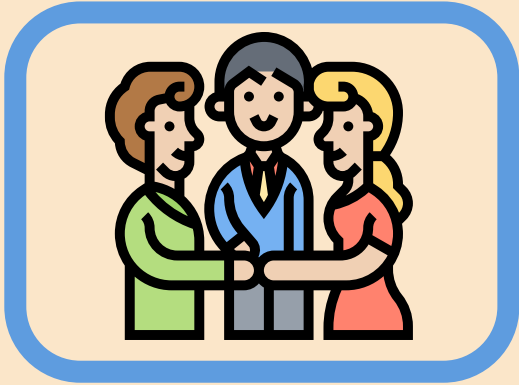
Parent-facing

Community & Expectations

- How can I ensure the teacher/staff understands my community?
- Participate in teacher-led family interviews to learn about family dynamics, student learning at home, resources, and challenges (family)
- Attend quarterly workshops to understand the quarter's norms, expectations, and goals (Family). In this session, you can review Socio-emotional goals, math, reading, etc. If you don't understand a goal or expectation, ask questions. Share with the teacher why this might be challenging for your child and you. Find ways to overcome these challenges.



Teachers in Early Childhood provide resource bags for the quarter. Each grade can do the same.

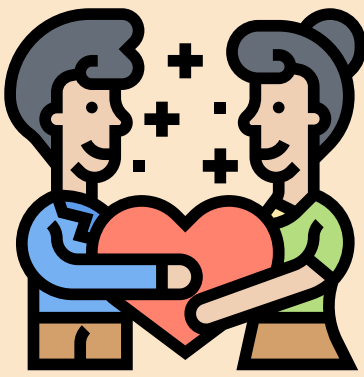


SCHOOL WIDE

- Complete Annual Family-School Surveys that measure parent engagement, areas where the school can grow, parent perspective, challenges parents are experiencing, etc.
- Participate in School quarterly (Google Forms) surveys to monitor parents' engagement months.
- Participate in school-wide workshops by grade span that prepare parents for effective parent-teacher conferences and prepare them to ask questions and engage in conversation.
- Participate in trainings that prepare parents to understand information and actively advocate when they are part of school councils.
- Read biweekly/monthly newsletters that share information and reflect the school culture. If you need verbal communication- let the teacher and other staff know.
- Review yearly scope and sequence for parent programming. If you can't participate in all. Be intentional in the activities that you participate in. Do they help you and your child reach their goals?

Effective Communication

- Don't assume you will get multiple reminders and communication from the school. Develop a system to ensure you calendar key school activities, deadlines, and priorities.
- Call teachers when your children do something amazing or reach a goal! Sometimes, teachers only receive calls when something negative has occurred. Would you want to answer the phone if you only received these calls?
- Home visits: Advocate for yourself. If you do not feel comfortable having a home visit, let staff know. Offer a different place where teachers can learn more about your family, your child, and your routines.

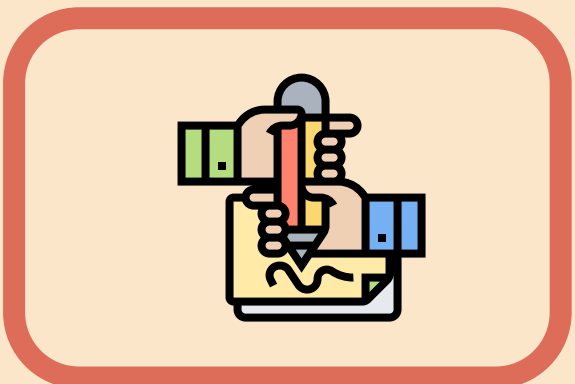


Additional Tips

- A digital run-through of the day/ Parent shadowing program. Participate in activities and school protocols for parents to observe in the classroom. With their protocol, you can take notes, and at the end, you can debrief with the teacher, admin, or family engagement coordinator.
- Build a culture for reading- middle schoolers and parents can read the same book and debrief/journal. This gets submitted to the family engagement coordinator. Parents must develop a culture emphasizing the love for learning and growing at home.
- When a student completes assignments at home, check for understanding. Ask what their favorite part of the reading was, what their favorite character was, and why. Do you think the assignment was challenging? Which part? Does this connect to anything they've seen in real life?
- Volunteer to read in English, Spanish, or any language or to tell a story.
- Volunteer to lead family math night activities at school to model for teachers how you learned math concepts, support your children, and simultaneously build relationships.

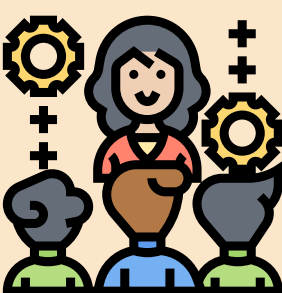
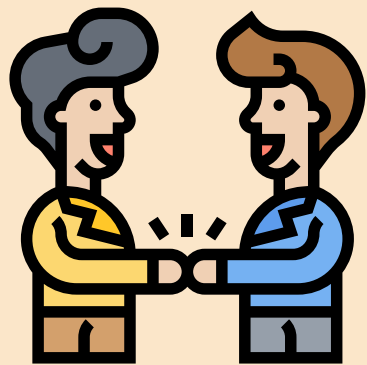
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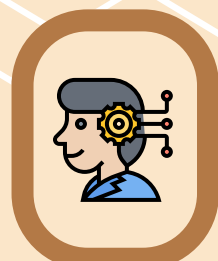
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- Office staff need training focusing on emotional intelligence to interact with families.
- Supervision staff must consistently report incidents to ensure parents trust school processes.
- School-wide alignment on how staff interact with parents.
- Parents can share the progress they've documented for their child with the new teacher.