



Roadblocks & Detours

To Involving Parents in Your Educational Institution

Time



Detour #1 - Be flexible when scheduling meetings and events.

Try a mix of mornings, evenings and weekends to allow every parent the opportunity to attend at least some of the time. Consider potluck dinners and brown bag lunches to meet the needs of working parents. Take care not to schedule things during religious holidays.

Child Care



Detour #2 - Find some available space in the school for child care.

Either take turns volunteering as child-care providers or locate appropriate child-care professionals in the community and charge a nominal fee to pay for their services. Please note that it is important to stay within the state-mandated adult/ child ratios when providing child care. Check with a licensed child-care facility to obtain current ratios.

Language Special Needs



Detour #3 - Make printed materials available in all languages spoken by

families in your school.

Provide interpreters for meetings and events. Be sure that homeless parents are offered opportunities for participation. Provide someone to "sign" for deaf or hearing impaired and be sure that there are no physical boundaries that prohibit parents with disabilities from attending.



Cliques

Detour #4 - Make sure that all parents are not only welcomed as they arrive, but actively included in meetings and events.

Arrange for a welcoming committee to keep the door open for building relationships.



Transportation

Detour #5 - Plan events in locations that are easy to get to and near public transportation.

For more information contact: _____ Rural schools may want to locate some "buddies" to offer rides to school events.



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Parent Involvement, Provider Tip: Roadblocks & Detours

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