



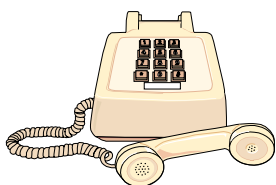
# Parent Involvement

(Single and Working Parents)

## C Communication

Communication with single-parent and other non-traditional families will be more effective if schools:

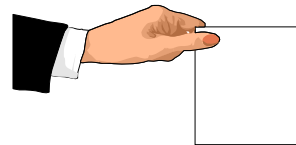
- ⇒ Avoid making the assumption that students live with both biological parents
- ⇒ Avoid the traditional "Dear Parents" greeting. Instead use "Dear Parent," "Dear Family," or "Friends,"
- ⇒ Develop a system of keeping non-custodial parents informed
- ⇒ Demonstrate sensitivity to the rights of non-custodial parents.
- ⇒ Develop a simple unobtrusive system to keep track of family changes:
  - \*at the beginning of the year ask for names and addresses of individuals to be informed
  - \*at mid-year send a form to each child's parents or guardians to verify the info.
- ⇒ Place fliers about school events on bulletin boards of major companies in the community which are family-friendly to learning.



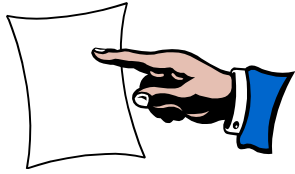
## I Involvement

The following practices can make the involvement of single and working parents more feasible:

- ⇒ Hold parent-teacher conferences and other school events in the evenings.
- ⇒ Welcome other children at such events, provide child care
- ⇒ Provide teachers and counselors with in-service training sensitizing them to needs of single and working parents.
- ⇒ Gather information on whether joint or separate parent conferences need to be scheduled.
- ⇒ Sponsor evening and weekend learning activities (include children).



- ⇒ Work with local businesses to arrange release time from work so parents can attend school activities during the school day.



# Workshops

Schools can also offer parent education workshops on topics such as:

- ⇒ Understanding the impact of separation and divorce on children.
- ⇒ Handling the multiple roles of the single parent.
- ⇒ Developing a safe and secure environment for latchkey children.

# The Community

Draw on the community. Schools can facilitate the involvement of single and working parents in their children's education by seeking cooperation and collaboration with resources in the community.

- ⇒ Approach human service, cultural, social, and other organizations. Suggest the development of programs and services that meet the needs of children and parents.
- ⇒ Enlist the aid of high school students and senior citizens. They can assist in before- and after-school recreational and child care

programs.

- ⇒ Form partnerships with organizations that can provide programs for children.
- ⇒ Work with employers to encourage them to institute flexible hours for working parents who want to attend school activities.
- ⇒ Use a variety of approaches to enable as many parents and children as possible to benefit from these programs.

---

For more information contact:



**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](http://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, Parent Tip Sheets, #2: Parent Involvement

© 1999, Tampa, Florida

This is a publication of the Florida Center for Parent Involvement which was funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The opinions contained in this publication are those of the grantee and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Education. All or portions of this work may be reproduced providing the Florida Center for Parent Involvement, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida is properly credited on all reproductions.

---

Events, activities, programs and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law and in accordance with the University's respect for personal dignity.

**University of  
South Florida  
USF**