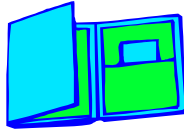# Involving Parents with Limited English Skills

Strategies for Involvement

Translate letters, notices, progress reports, handbooks, and information packets into all of the languages spoken by families in the school.

Telephones should be answered by individuals who speak the languages of all the children in the school.

Record phone messages in other languages so non-English speaking parents can keep track of important information.

Announce cultural events and other activities sponsored by other language groups in the school.

Use interpreters (paid or volunteers) to promote communication with limited English speaking parents.

Recruit, train, and hire bilingual parents to be paraprofessional in the schools.

Integrate multicultural materials in school displays, publications, libraries and classrooms.

Innovative Programs

(designed to help parents with limited English take part in their children's education)

Literacy & Family Nights

Literacy and other adult basic education programs are offered in schools with activities for children, such as homework tutoring and recreational games.

Enrichment Programs

Schools work with adult education agencies to conduct enrichment programs designed for parents with limited English proficiency.

English as a Second Language

These programs coordinate the education of parents with the education of their children. Materials used for English as a Second Language and literacy training are also used by children in their classrooms.

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. 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, #4: Involving Parents with Limited English Skills

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