



Involving Parents of Children w/Special Needs

What Program Directors Can Do

Establish Parent Resource Centers

Provide basic training to help all parents understand special education and the role of the family in cooperative planning

Make available up-to-date information and resources for parents and teachers

Encourage early childhood and pre-school screening programs

Install telephones and answering machines in classrooms to promote communication between parents and school staff.

What Teachers Can Do

Look at students' strengths and discuss them with parents.

Treat parents as advocates who can enhance the lives of their children.

Provide parents with information about support groups, special services and family-to-family groups

Offer to give parents referrals to helpful agencies and groups

Encourage parents to organize support systems, pairing families who will complement each other

Discuss a child's special talents with parents and use that positive approach as a bridge to discuss

other issues.

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.

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