



10 Tips for Improving the Home-School Connection

Home learning experiences are valued by children when they are perceived as meaningful to the children's lives. Teachers should provide home assignments that reflect this intent. Here are some suggestions to make the most of home activities.

1 - Create or select enjoyable activities that engage both the parent and the child, are related to the unit of study, and require a reasonable amount of time to complete.

2 - Keep parents informed about units of study through newsletters or monthly calendars.



3 - Devise schedules for activities so parents can be prepared for them.

4 - Include all materials for activities.



5 - Provide sharing time at school for children to share what they have done or learned at home.

7 - Send home helpful hints, lists of interesting places to visit, and ideas for activities to do at home relating to topics being studied at school.



8 - Regularly invite parents to school, and include them in the classroom activities.



9 - Be responsive to parent and child needs (time constraints, literacy level, number of parents in the home).

10- Create activities that enable parents and children to experience success (open-ended activities).



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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

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