

Family Engagement for Teachers

September 2019

Family Engagement Isn't Just Nice, It Is Necessary for Student Success!

Getting to Know You

How do you reach out to strangers and let them into your classroom? Remember these strangers are your students' families and they want to be a part of their child's education. Each family has the capacity to support their child's academic career—and no 2 supports are the same! Some families' capacity may be getting their child to school on time every day, imparting the importance of learning and attendance other families may be deeply involved in the workings of the school through PTO, SAC, or volunteering at the school. Other families make sure homework is done, reading is done nightly, or activities and school work are balanced. The list and combinations go on.

It is up to us, the teachers, to welcome our families into our world of learning so that we may learn from them about their child, what it is they do to support academics at home and to find out what more they might want to learn. Ask questions or use surveys to find out about the families in your classroom and put that knowledge to work for the success of your students.

Relationship Strong!

Building relationships take time, but it is time well spent! The investment made building relationships with your students and their families and between students will positively impact the learning environment of your classes. As you value your students as individuals, they will come to value what you have to offer in learning opportunities. **"Students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!"** The same goes for families! Take the time to reach out to your students and their families and get to know who they are and let them know who you are as well. Education is a partnership and none of us can do it alone.



Communicate

Have you communicated with your students' families yet? Have they communicated with you? How are you reaching out to families to let them know how their student is doing? How are you reaching out to families to share with them what your classes will be learning? Families may not know the right questions to ask, but they all want their child to be a success. Help them by keeping them in the academic know! And remember, positive communication goes a LONG way in building relationships and bridges.

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Responsibilities & Chores

Children watch the adults in their lives all the time. They see us doing many activities throughout the day. Children can learn to help around the home. Start by working together to clean up toys and put items back where they belong when playtime is over. Children as young as 4 can help unload dishwashers (putting the silverware away is a great way to strengthen sorting skills). Start simple and work your way into more complex chores as your child matures.

Chores and responsibilities help strengthen a child's sense of belonging in the family, a sense of accomplishment, and worth.

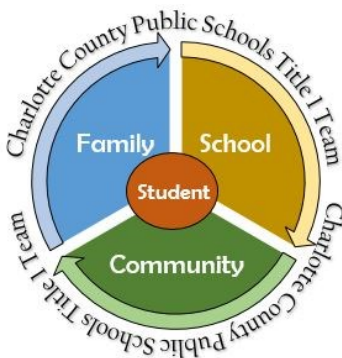
Be sure to allow time for learning how to accomplish the task and be patient. It may not be done the way you would do it, but over time your child's skills will strengthen and improve.

Family Reading and Resource Center

Have you been to your school's Family Reading and Resource Center yet? Every Title I School has one and welcomes ALL families to visit!

Receive **FREE BOOKS!** Yes, FREE! It's hard to believe, but adult family members can take their children to the Family Reading and Resource Center at their school EVERY WEEK check out books to borrow AND get one FREE BOOK to add to their home library each week. Check with your school's front office for days and times the Family Reading & Resource Center is open.

When you visit the Family Reading and Resource Center you will also meet your school's **amazing** Achievement and Family Associate (AFA). AFAs run the Family Reading & Resource Centers. The AFA works with families and students to reach academic goals at school and to support Family Engagement within their school.



Respect

Respect is earned and given. A child has to learn how to show respect for himself, his peers, and for the adults in his life. As the adults it is **our** responsibility to model respect for ourselves, our peers, and show respect to others. We must also give children opportunities to practice giving and accepting respect. Yes ma'am, yes sir, please, thank you, I'm sorry and I accept your apology, are the beginnings of respect.

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