







Family Involvement Glyph



Procedure:

- Think about the relationships you have with your parents. Think about what strategies and activities you are using to foster these positive relationships. As you work creating your glyph, reflect on what strategies worked as well as what strategies you may want to implement this year.
- If you called the parents to welcome them, draw three windows on your school house. If you would like to call them this year, draw two windows.
- If you sent positive notes home with your students to share their successes, draw curtains in your windows. If that is something you will try, draw smiling faces in your windows.
- If you provided your students' parents with your email address, color your school house door red. If you will this year, color your school house door blue.
- If you set up and utilize a class webpage, draw four yellow flowers on the right side of the door. If you are interested in learning how to set up a class web page, draw four red flowers.
- If you sent home a weekly or monthly class newsletter, draw an apple tree on the left side of your door. If this is something you may consider trying, draw butterflies on the left.

Procedures (Cont.)

- If parents volunteer in your classroom regularly, draw roof tiles. If you plan on soliciting their help this year, color the roof red.
- If you begin all parent conferences with a positive comment, add knobs to the school house doors. If you will try this year, add a school name above the door.
- If you keep a parent communication log, add a "Parents Needed" sign to the front of your school. If you have a parent volunteer log, draw stars on the sign.

Assumptions

- The teacher can provide nurturing in all areas of education.
- The government will continue to fully fund all educational mandates.
- We should be able to reach family members at all times.
- Children begin school with all the necessary skills to be successful.

Beliefs

- Educating children must be a partnership between the home and the school.
- All parents want their children to be successful.
- Parent involvement is paramount to student achievement.

Florida Educator Accomplished Practice (FEAP)

Role of the Teacher

- The professional teacher establishes open lines of communication and works cooperatively with families, educational professionals, and other member of the student's support system to promote continuous improvement of the educational experience.

Sample key indicator

- Communicates with families, including those of culturally and linguistically diverse students, to become familiar with the students' home situation and background.

Communication

- The professional teacher constantly seeks to create a classroom that is accepting, yet businesslike, on task, and that produces results. She/he communicates to all students high expectations for learning, and supports, encourages and gives positive and fair feedback about their learning efforts. The teacher models good communication skills and creates an atmosphere in the classroom that encourages mutual respect and appreciation of different cultures, linguistic backgrounds, learning styles and abilities.

Sample Key Indicator

- Communicates with colleagues, school and community specialists, administrators, and families.

Diversity

- The professional teacher establishes a “risk-taking” environment which accepts and fosters diversity. The teacher must demonstrate knowledge of varied cultures by practices such as conflict resolution, mediation, and creating a climate of openness, inquiry and support.

Sample Key Indicator

- Recognizes the importance of family and family structure to the individual learner and is aware of student’s family situation when planning individual learning.

Learning Goals

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Family Involvement

Successful family involvement is not a sporadic activity. It is a sustained commitment to instill the habits of learning and to set high expectations. It is making connections to teachers and schools, not only when trouble arises, but as a part of the everyday process of children’s schooling.

~U.S. Secretary of Education

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ To network and collaborate with other new teachers
- ✓ To reflect on past experiences working with families and plan for ways to build on and improve family involvement
- ✓ To develop effective strategies for promoting a learning community that includes parents
- ✓ To become familiar with parent resources available through the Educational Portal and The Parent Academy

NORMS for Collaborative Work

- Participate actively.
- Ask Questions.
- Learn by doing.
- Set your learning into action.

Agenda

- Admit One
- Connecting Activity – Glyph
- Assumptions and Beliefs
- Educator Accomplished Practices
- Learning Goals
- Learning Outcomes
- Norms
- Café Protocol
- Jeopardy
- NCLB
- Role Play: Teacher/Parent Conferences
- Problem Solving: Scenarios and Discussion
- Three Letters from Teddy
- Lines of Communication
- Parent Conferences
- The Tragic Story of the Right Family
- Name That Tune
- District Parent Resources
- C3 Activity
- Evaluation - Intentions

Virtually every issue that we deal with,
be it education ... be it human
services,... gang problems, or drugs,
we find **STRONG FAMILIES** the
ultimate solution.

~ Van Goethe

Café Protocol

You are meeting at Café 411.
One person at the café table
reads the question.
Each person shares their
response to the question.
One person records the
responses.
5 to 6 minutes is spent on each
question.
This activity should be
completed in about 15 minutes.

Café 411

You are invited for tea - - -
Sip and chat,
Share ideas!

COME ENJOY the
VIEW, CONVERSATION, and
MUSIC!

Talk about how to enhance your
Family Involvement Program.

Café 411 Questions

1. What should I do? How can I do more in my classroom to promote meaningful parent involvement?
2. How should I reorganize my classroom instruction based on what I know about my students' home situation and their parents' abilities to help them?

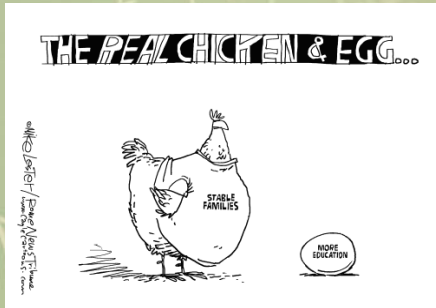
Café 411 Questions

3. What do I need to know about the cultures of my students so that I will not offend their parents?
4. How should I interact with parents who have an ideology about parental involvement that conflicts with my own expectations?

JEOPARDY

Dealing with Difficult Parents	Educator Accomplished Practices	Quotes/ NCLB/ References	Necessary Information	Effective Parent Conferences
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300

DISCUSS and DEBATE



What does NCLB say?

- "States, Districts and Schools are to devise plans based on current research on effective parental involvement that fosters achievement to high standards for all children".
- "Parent involvement practices shall be geared to greater participation by parents in school planning, review, and improvement experiences".

-NCLB, Sec. 6311. State Plans
Parental Involvement

What does School Board Rule Say?

- Parental involvement is an essential element in effective education. Studies show two major factors are necessary to improve learning: a sound instructional program and consistent involvement of parents and other influential adults.
- It is, therefore, the policy of Miami-Dade County Public Schools to bring together families, schools, and the community as active partners in the education of children.

ROLE-PLAYING SCENARIOS

- Separate into groups by primary and intermediate grade levels.
- Each group will be given a colored card with a different scenario to be presented to the large group.
- After each role play, Think, Pair and Share with your elbow partner. Think about what the role play represented. Pair and share with your partner to discuss your thoughts about the scenario.

Reflection

Three Letters From Teddy

By Elizabeth Silance Ballard

Is there a Teddy in your classroom?

Lines of Communication

- What communication strategies have worked for you in fostering positive relationships with your parents?
- What kind of impact did those strategies have on student behavior? Explain.
- What has been your most challenging experience in communicating with a parent (s) ?
- Name one thing you could do to improve parent communication.

Tips for Effective Parent Conferences

- Prepare in advance.
- Allow enough time for the conference.
- Get organized.
- Greet parents at the door.
- Open on a positive note.
- Be specific.
- Ask for parent suggestions.
- Offer solutions.

Behaviors That Can Sabotage Your Parent Conference

- Don't interrupt.
- Don't take over the conversation.
- Don't change the subject/.
- Don't engage in silent combat.
- Be careful of your body language.
- Don't get backed up into a corner.
- Try the art of persuasion, not coercion.

Activity

The Tragic Story of the Right Family



Why are Parents Angry?

- ❖ The world is a stressful place.
- ❖ Educators do things that upset parents.
- ❖ Failure to meet parent expectations.
- ❖ Parents have personal problems.
- ❖ Parents are misinformed.

-McEwan, (2005), p. 7-18

How to Deal with Difficult Parents?

- Defuse and disarm emotionally charged behavior.
- Engage in productive problem solving.
- Create a positive classroom culture.
- Be proactive.

-McEwan, p. 21

Name that Tune



Family Involvement Seminar – Follow-up Activity

- Create your own parent communication log.
- Include the following information:
 - Student's name
 - Date of contact
 - Purpose of communication
 - Action to be taken (parent, teacher and child)
 - Follow-up
 - Any other information you deem to be important.

District Parent Resources

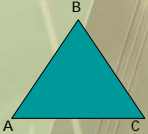
Parent Portal
www2.dadeschools.net/parents/htm

Parent Academy
<http://theparentacademy.dadeschools.net>



Confidence and Competence with Communication (C3)

- Students need to communicate positive feedback to each other.
- Sit in the shape of a triangle.



Seek first to understand, before you seek to be understood.
–Stephen Covey

Intention Statement

I observed _____

And now I will _____

- WHEN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES TEAM TOGETHER,

EVERYBODY WINS!!