

# 20 Ideas for Increasing Parental Involvement

## Open House

Welcome your parents at the beginning of the year in style. Have well planned activities for parent/child that help you learn about the family.

## Online Connection

Create a blog to share information with your parents. If email works well to communicate, collect addresses to share a weekly newsletter of events and class fun.

## Share

Let your parents and students know about you, your family, your pets, your hobbies, and your goals for the year.

## Photos

Collect and share photos of the kids in action. Keeping a class photo album helps parents feel involved in the daily happenings of your room.

## Sign-Ups

Have sign up sheets with your needs available for your parents to see at school events. Sign up Genius is a great way to involve your parents and remind them.

## Keep it Fun

Arrange social events for your class where families can get to know each other. It can be a simple meet at the park or a Sundae Party for sharing a Reader's Theatre students have practiced.

## Phone a Family

Try to phone your families to share positive news periodically throughout the year. Parents love hearing positives.

## Parent Involvement Projects

Plan family projects that are simple and fun, but that are inclusive. Keep in mind work schedules so that they aren't overwhelming to the family.

## Buddy System

Pair up your students for times when they have questions at home and need a quick answer. They may also be carpooling partners for times a student may need a ride to school for fieldtrips.

## Notify

Be sure to give plenty of notice for special events. Schedules can be hectic, but with advanced planning most can arrange to be there.

## Be Inclusive

Each family has unique needs and may not have had the same prior experience with school. Make them feel valued no matter how they may or may not be involved. They may decide to become involved with encouragement.

## Thank You Notes

Be sure to thank parents when they attend events and/or volunteer for you. A personal message means a lot.

## Team Building

Send out a survey to each family to see what interests and skills your parents have to offer. Have the list available for times you need to call on help.

## Get Techy

Today, many parents use Facebook, Texting, and other social media. If able, create a secure group where you can post messages and reminders. There are apps available to send messages securely to groups, and this will help parents keep informed.

## Spread the Love

Instead of one room mother, let parents sign up to lead different events. That way, one parent isn't overloaded.

## Special Events

Plan special events to help parents help at home. Consider offering childcare, food, and transportation to make it easy on the family to come.

## Parent Perceptions

Invite the parents to be involved and ask them what would make it easier for them to do so.

## Student of the Week

Assign each student a week to be special. During that week, highlight him/her on a bulletin board and have the parent come for lunch.

## Story Reader and Art Helper

Set aside a 30 minute block of time for parents to come and read to your students. If time is short, alternate between readers and art help.

## Inform

Share research with parents about the importance of being involved. By doing this, you are sending the message that you want them to be part of your team and value them.