



Promoting Parent Involvement in Elementary Education

Category: Working with Parents

Workshop Overview

Following is a general overview of this workshop, including desired participant outcomes, an explanation of the workshop's alignment with Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning, and resources that are included in print and electronic form.

Category: Working with Parents

Duration: Full workshop – 3 hours

Desired Outcomes:

Participants will...

- Identify different ways of getting parents involved in the teaching-learning process.
- Learn different activities to involve parents in increasing student achievement.
- Use different activities to involve parents in developing student attitude and behavior.

Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning:

- **Learning Communities:** Occurs within learning communities committed to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and goal alignment.
- **Resources:** Requires prioritizing, monitoring, and coordinating resources for educator learning.
- **Implementation:** Applies research on change and sustains support for implementation of professional learning for long term change.
- **Outcomes:** Aligns its outcomes with educator performance and student curriculum standards.

Resources in This Binder:

- Handouts:
 - Workshop Agenda
 - Activity Sheet: My K-W-L Chart
 - Handout 1: Ways to Keep Parents Involved
 - Handout 2: Parent Involvement and Student Achievement
 - Handout 3: Parent Involvement and Student Attitude and Behavior
 - Attendee Notes
 - 3-2-1 Evaluation Form
 - Certificate of Completion
- “Think About It” Exercise
- Ready, Set, Go Planning Activity





Topic Outline

Understanding the general flow of topics to be covered is an important part of giving a strong presentation. This allows the presenter(s) to lead effective group discussions and speak extemporaneously. Following are the main topics covered in this PowerPoint presentation. As you prepare to give the workshop, you may want to refer to this page often.

Main Topics:

1. Getting Parents Involved
2. Parent Involvement and Student Achievement
3. Parent Involvement and Student Attitude and Behavior

Subtopics:

1. Getting Parents Involved

- a. Why Involve Parents?
- b. Ways to Keep Parents Involved
- c. The Difficult Parent

2. Parent Involvement and Student Achievement

- a. Language
- b. Reading
- c. Guidelines for Home Practice
- d. Writing
- e. Mathematics
- f. Science
- g. Social Studies
- h. Developing Study Habits

3. Parent Involvement and Student Attitude and Behavior

- a. Social Awareness
- b. Creativity
- c. Independence
- d. Self-Confidence
- e. Respect for Elders

Presentation Outline



This outline is designed for you to see the PowerPoint presentation at a glance. Note that slide numbers and the approximate amount of time needed per slide are shown in the right two columns. **The times in bold print show the approximate total time needed for that topic, which includes the approximate times for the activities, shown in parentheses.** You might consider keeping this page within reach during the presentation.

Section of Presentation	Slide #	Timing (mins)
Getting Started		
Introduce self, co-teacher, participants	1-2	
Explain materials issued to participants		
Cover objectives (from Workshop Overview)	2	10
Activity —My K-W-L Chart	3	(10)
Topic 1—Getting Parents Involved		
	4-8	30
Discussion Point —How do parents participate in their children’s education?	4	(10)
Topic 2—Parent Involvement and Student Achievement		
	9-18	55
Discussion Point —Academic performance is enhanced when parents get involved in the school activities of their children. Why do you think this is true?	9	(10)
Quick Write —Explain how parent involvement affects student achievement.	18	(10)
Break		
Topic 3—Parent Involvement and Student Attitude and Behavior		
	19-26	70
Activity —Design Your Own Activity	25	(30)
Activity —My K-W-L Chart	26	(10)
Closing Remarks		
	27	5
Total of 2 hours and 50 minutes (not including break)		

Helpful tip!

This workshop can be broken up into shorter sessions so that you can adapt the presentation according to your time constraints.



Slide 8

PDXPERT
GETTING PARENTS INVOLVED

The Difficult Parent

Get the parent involved by:

- Listening to the parent talk.
- Dealing with the problem, not the emotion.
- Using positive statements.
- Following up conversations.

The MASTER Teacher
Divide Support Team

Ask participants this question: *Have you experienced dealing with a difficult parent? What did you do?*

When dealing with a difficult parent, you want the involvement of that parent, but on a reasonable and profitable level. The following suggestions are some ideas to help get him or her to the involvement stage.

Listen to the parent talk. *Sometimes the parent needs to vent his or her feelings before he or she can progress. Unless the parent becomes abusive, simply wait until he or she has finished, and then acknowledge your awareness of the situation. Verbalize back to him or her what you think he or she said.*

Deal with the problem, not the emotion. *Find out what the parent wants or expects you to do about the situation. Then let him or her know what you can do.*

Use positive statements. *Positive statements will let the parent know you want his or her involvement. Some positive phrases include: "What if we...", "Consider this idea...", or "I think it would be better if..." Sometimes the difficult parent has not stopped to think about alternatives or how to actually solve the problem.*

Follow up conversations. *You can do this with a note or phone call to keep communication going. If a plan is being initiated, tell the parent when you're going to get back with him or her to share the results of the plan.*



Slide 18

PDXPERT PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

In light of the different learning activities we have just discussed, explain how parent involvement affects student achievement.

ACTIVITY: Quick Write

The MASTER Teacher
Develop Support Teams

Activity: Quick Write

Allow 10 minutes for this activity.

This activity is meant to summarize the previous section. Specifically, participants will be given time to reflect on the effects of parent involvement on student achievement.

Have participants write their answers on a piece of paper. Tell them that 3 to 5 minutes will be allotted for writing. The remaining time will be allotted for group sharing.

Debrief: Ask two to three participants to share their responses.



“Think About It” Exercise



Have staff complete this exercise to begin implementing what they learned during the workshop. Distribute this document to staff by attaching the file to the Next Day Follow-Up Email, or make copies for the staff.

1. List ways of getting a difficult parent involved in his or her child’s education.

2. Are there any aspects of the topic that the workshop did not cover? What are they and how do you propose handling these aspects?

3. In what ways do home practice and parent reinforcement affect student achievement and behavior?
