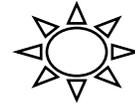




Section for Parents and Caregivers Relationship Building



The DVD chapter on relationship-building addresses the following topics:

- The importance of building positive parent-teacher relationships for students, parents, educators, and the community
- The requirements for positive parent-teacher relationships
- Barriers to and strategies for building positive parent-teacher relationships

Questions to consider before viewing:

- How do you think a good parent-teacher relationship might affect your child at school and at home?
- What do you think are the educators' roles and responsibilities in building effective parent-teacher relationships with you?
- What do you see as your roles and responsibilities in building effective parent-teacher relationships with your child's educator?
- What factors prevent you from having a relationship with your child's educator?

Questions to consider after viewing:

- What were the factors affecting the relationships highlighted in this segment?
- Are these factors similar to or different from your situation?
- What strategies were tried to improve parent-teacher relationships?
- Would you be able to try these strategies? Why or why not?
- What other suggestions do you have for improving parent-teacher relationships?

Activity: Improving Parent-Teacher Relationships

Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials: Pen/pencil, “Parents’ and Caregivers’ Checklist” handout

Objective: To identify strategies to help improve your relationship with your child’s educator.

Procedure: Complete the checklist by putting an (X) in the column that applies to you. Compare your list with the person beside you. Look at the X’s in the middle column (No/Not Yet). Do you and your partner have any of the same situations marked? Choose one situation that you and your partner would like to change. Using the strategies you learned from the DVD or other strategies you might know, discuss how you could change or improve the situation. Share your situation and solution with the other parents and caregivers in the room. Get feedback from the other members present in the room. Listen to other situations and solutions. Give suggestions.

Note: This activity could be completed individually. Complete the checklist. Choose one situation in the middle column that you would like to change. Think and then write some strategies that you might try in your school to improve the situation.

Parents' and Caregivers' Checklist¹

- Complete the checklist by putting an (X) in the column that applies to you.
- Compare your list with the person beside you.
- Look at the X's in the middle column (No/Not Yet).
 - Do you and your partner have any of the same situations marked?
- Choose one situation that you and your partner would like to change.
 - Using the strategies you learned from the DVD or other strategies you might know, discuss how you could change or improve the situation.
- Share your situation and solution with the other parents and caregivers in the room.
- Get feedback from the other members present in the room.
- Listen to other situations and solutions.
- Give suggestions.

Note: This activity could be completed individually. Complete the checklist. Choose one situation in the middle column that you would like to change. Think and then write some strategies that you might try in your school to improve the situation.

The teacher and/or administrator...	Yes	No/Not Yet	Not Applicable
only asks to see me when there is a problem.			
lets me know when my child is doing well.			
asks me for suggestions on how to help my child.			
listens to my concerns.			
sees me as a partner in my child's education.			
sees me as being unimportant in my child's education.			
calls my home when my child does something wrong.			
calls my home when my child does something good.			
can only meet with me during the school day.			
makes time to meet with me outside the school day.			
has met me more than once.			
has used an interpreter to communicate with me			
explains how they will grade my child.			
explains how they are helping my child improve.			
tells me my child is the problem.			

¹This checklist was adapted from: Rosenthal, D.M., & Sawyers, J.Y. (1996). Building successful home/school partnerships: Strategies for parent support and involvement. *Childhood Education*. 72, 194-200.