



COLORADO'S PROMISING PARTNERSHIP PRACTICES

Johnson Elementary School

Improving Latino Parent Involvement Through Home Visits



Description/Summary

Research consistently shows that family engagement in student learning helps children succeed in school and in life. This practice represents the results obtained by implementing a 6-month home visit program at Johnson Elementary School with the purpose of promoting the kind of partnering that supports students' academic success.



Goals of the Program

- To build relationships and trust on a belief that parents and teachers are equally important co-educators.
- To engage and partner with families by understanding their needs, strengths, and concerns regarding the academic progress and expectations for their children.

Key Elements – Home Visits

- **Before the Home Visit:**

Family Liaison informs the parents, set up a schedule and meet with the teacher of each student to understand the unique strengths and concerns. Gather supplies and activities with instructions in Spanish (cost per student \$10-\$15).

- **During the Home Visit:**

Parents and the Family Liaison talked about the teacher's feedback and the activities included in their kit. Notes were taken about the parent's questions and concerns. Total time of visit was approximately 1 hour.

- **After the Home Visit:**

The Family Liaison met with each teacher to talk about the visit and talk about the parent's questions and concerns. The liaison followed-up with parents and teachers to make sure everyone was still on track and clear of their expectations. Plenty of positive feedback was given to parents to show them their support was being noticed at school.

Top Picks for Resources

- * **Guide to Home Visits** (PDF, 59.4 KB, 3 pgs.) Michigan Department of Education Early Childhood Programs - This guide provides a philosophy for making home visits, practical advice for the visit, appropriate procedures for implementing and completing the visit, as well as guidelines for post visit practices.
- * **Sending Teachers on Visits to All Homes** All 2,800 students in this district, from prekindergarten to twelfth grade, receive a home visit by their teacher prior to the start of each school year. Visits generally begin during the second week of August. During the visits, teachers create important bonds and extend education beyond the four walls of the classroom, inviting parents to be a part of their children's education. (School Administrator, 2008)
- * **Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project** This project is an inexpensive and easily replicated model of parent engagement that has been proven to end the cycle of blame between parents and school staff by building trust and respect, instilling cultural competency and increasing personal and professional capacity for all involved.

Outcomes

- Teachers reported that students were turning in homework more than they used to before the home visits.
- Students read more at home and engaged in practicing skills regularly with their parents or older siblings.
- Parents checked backpacks more often, so communication improved. Teachers sent all communication in Spanish, leading to a better understanding of school happenings, expectations and events.
- First time we saw 100% parent/teacher conference attendance!!
- Positive changes were observed more in the youngest population, grades K-3rd, than in the older group of kids, 4th and 5th grades.