

# Ways That We Increase Parent Involvement

<p><b><u>Be Welcoming &amp; Helpful</u></b></p> <p>Everyone needs to be committed to a welcoming and helpful mindset. Greet people warmly and by name (if possible). Go out of your way to be helpful.</p>	<p><b><u>Welcoming Committee</u></b></p> <p>Members of the parent/teacher organization call new families to welcome them to the school and answer any questions they may have.</p>	<p><b><u>New Family Orientation</u></b></p> <p>Welcome your new families to the school with an information session and guided tours so students can locate their new classrooms.</p>	<p><b><u>Kindergarten Round-Up</u></b></p> <p>One month before the end of the school year, invite the incoming kindergarten students and their parents to visit the school, meet teachers, and take a tour of the school.</p>
<p><b><u>Back-to-School Night(s)</u></b></p> <p>Make it personal! Welcome parents at the front door, and have plenty of folks on hand to assist with finding classrooms. Encourage parents to write a note to their child.</p>	<p><b><u>Be Inclusive</u></b></p> <p>Each family has unique needs and may not have had the same prior experience with school. Make them feel valued no matter what—they may decide to become involved with your encouragement!</p>	<p><b><u>Family Activities</u></b></p> <p>Plan family activities that are simple, fun, and inclusive. Movie Nights, Family Bingo, Ice Cream Socials, and Craft Nights are inexpensive, require a minimal amount of volunteers, and are lots of fun!</p>	<p><b><u>Sign-Ups</u></b></p> <p>Have sign up sheets with your needs available at Back-to-School Night and all PTO/PTA meetings. <i>Sign Up Genius</i> is a great way to involve your parents and send reminders.</p>
<p><b><u>Share the Load</u></b></p> <p>Instead of one homeroom parent, let parents sign up to lead different events. This allows more parents to get involved.</p>	<p><b><u>GET CONNECTED</u></b></p> <p>Create a webpage, Facebook page and Twitter page to share information with parents. Communicate using email, social media, flyers, and by phone.</p>	<p><b><u>Advanced Warning</u></b></p> <p>Be sure to give plenty of notice for special events. Families are busy, but with advanced notice, most will adjust their plans.</p>	<p><b><u>Eye on Learning</u></b></p> <p>Plan activities that allow students to showcase their learning for their parents. Parents will be amazed by what their child is learning.</p>