



## Parental Involvement in Education Management of Primary School

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### Abstract

This article presents Fundamental concepts for Parental Involvement in Education Management of Primary School. Schools can become successful in engaging parents by making a slow start to expanding definitions of involvement. It is not just about increasing numbers but about the quality and kind of involvement that is brought to the table. It is more about believing that the success of students is a common interest for both school and family. Schools must envision parents as partners in the functioning and learning process. This will go a long way in identifying concrete ways in which the partnership can be cultivated and used for mutual benefit. Kids need to know that they are not making their life journeys alone and a successful school-parent partnership is a foundation for this. In this article mention 1) Parental Involvement in Education & Schools: Benefits and Strategies 2) Strategies for Successful Parental Involvement in Children’s Education and 3) What Are the Benefits of Parental Engagement in School?

**Keywords:** Parental involvement, Education Management, Primary School

### Introduction

Parents have a strong influence on their child. They have a direct influence that is stronger than that of teachers, friends, and media. For this reason, a parent’s positive attitude and support towards their children’s education is considerable. It can inspire and empower the child to develop good learning habits. This results in academic success. In the long run, the child experiences economic and social benefits. Sadly, many schools are unsuccessful in getting parents to take an active role in their child’s education. Some common mistakes educators make are: Making uninvolved parents feel guilty; 1) Inattentiveness to the parent’s perspective 2) Poor communication 3) Indifference to the individuality of the parents and 4) We share four simple but effective strategies that can promote productive parent engagement in your school. But first, here are a few reasons parental involvement is important.



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Parent Engagement in Schools is defined as parents and school staff working together to support and improve the learning, development, and health of children and adolescents. Parent engagement in schools is a shared responsibility in which schools and other community agencies and organizations are committed to reaching out to engage parents in meaningful ways, and parents are committed to actively supporting their children’s and adolescents’ learning and development. This relationship between schools and parents cuts across and reinforces children’s health and learning in multiple settings—at home, in school, in out-of-school programs, and in the community. Engaging parents in their children’s school life is a promising protective factor. (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2022)

### **Parental Involvement in Education & Schools: Benefits and Strategies**

Research (Positive Action, 2021) shows that parental involvement encourages children to attend school regularly. Findings from a study on middle school students in a public school, for instance, show a strong negative relationship between parental involvement and absenteeism. As the involvement of parents increased, absenteeism reduced.

#### **1. Why is a high rate of absenteeism bad?**

Research from the University of California shows absenteeism negatively affects social-emotional learning (SEL). It hinders the development of social skills like self-efficacy, social awareness, self-management, and a growth mindset. Absenteeism causes a decrease in academic performance. Studies have proven that as students miss classes, their academic performance drops. And it can lead to student dropout. This is according to Jason A. Schoeneberger, author of the Longitudinal Attendance Patterns study. Dropouts have long-term consequences like unemployment, low income, and higher incidences of crime involvement.

#### **2. It Promotes Better Behavior**

The same study on absenteeism among middle school students shows that a parent who’s involved in a child’s academics makes a big impression on the student. This parental support, in turn, causes: 1) A boost in the student’s self-esteem 2) An improvement in their attitude towards school. 3) Less disobedience 4) The ability for the child to build and maintain healthy relationships with peers and teachers 5) Reduced inappropriate classroom behavior, such as bullying and fighting. Conversely, studies show that uninvolved parents or parents who disagree with the teachers may negatively affect the child’s behavior. The child could also develop a negative attitude towards the teachers.

#### **3. Increased Student Achievement**

Parent involvement motivates children to learn, leading to higher grades. The level of involvement is crucial in producing a high impact on the student’s performance. The higher



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the degree of parental involvement, the higher the impact on the child’s academic achievement. This research involves three types of parent involvement—high, medium, and low. Results show a higher student achievement from high and medium-involved parents compared to children from low-involved families. A similar study published on IOP science further proves this concept. Results show that students from intensely involved parents have higher test scores in all subjects compared to children with uninvolved parents.

#### 4. Parent Involvement Improves Parent and Teacher Satisfaction

Besides promoting student success, parental involvement in a child’s education is beneficial to the teachers and the parents. It builds a positive relationship characterized by mutual respect. They’re able to work together to promote student learning and performance. This partnership benefits the child’s teacher in that: 1) Parents develop an appreciation for the challenges teachers face. It makes them feel valued. This gives the teacher morale and boosts their performance, creating higher job satisfaction 2) The interaction between the teacher and the parent helps the teacher know the student more. It enables them to teach in a personalized way and 3) There is better communication between parents, teachers, and school administrators. Parents are more likely to accept teachers’ requests for help with homework completion.

The parents involved in their children’s learning process also benefit in that: 1) They understand their child’s emotional and intellectual needs better. 2) They gain confidence in their parenting capabilities. 3) The parent learns their children's development stages and how to use positive reinforcement for each stage. 4) The improved communication gives parents the confidence to raise any concerns they may have about the school’s practices and 5) The parents become more committed to the school. They could become more active in policy-making and other important processes in the school.

### What Are the Benefits of Parental Engagement in School?

Several parents and school are devising new ways to enhance ways of building parent engagement in schools. Below are the critical aspects that are impacted positively when parents are involved in school activities.

#### 1. Increased academic achievement

The more intensely parents are involved, the higher is the impact on the academic achievement of children.

#### 2. Improved classroom behavior

Showing interest and encouragement in a child’s education by parents can have a positive impact on the child’s attitude towards school, classroom conduct, motivation levels, self-esteem, and absenteeism.



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### 3. The overall impact on a child’s personality

Parents’ involvement should not be restricted to just the primary years in school. In fact, parents who show more involvement in the secondary years of education tend to have children who are less inclined to drop out of school and have clear goals for the future.

### 4. Progress in disadvantaged children

Parents of disadvantaged children, minority or low-income group children do not usually get involved due to a lack of information and training. With adequate support and training from the school, such parents could get a chance to be involved and help in improving the performance of their children and contribute positively to the school.

### 5. Encourages children to be more involved in many activities

Parents who tend to read with kids eventually nurture children with a profound reading habit which helps lifelong. Not just reading but involvement in several other activities like homework, projects, and assignments could help in getting children more involved and interested.

### 6. Improved teacher morale

Teachers who receive more support from parents benefit from their involvement and can make a positive contribution towards focusing on the child’s interests and abilities. With better communication, teachers communicate with children and it also helps to dispel any wrong perceptions.

### 7. Improved the quality of education

Parents tend to have more access and understanding of the system and the procedures. This has a direct impact on the quality of education imparted as there is an exchange of ideas and techniques to fine-tune aspects.

### 8. Opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns

Parent involvement in schools is a platform to question any practices and voice concerns that need to be addressed. You can be more confident about raising any issues and concerns you may have. This could result in a mutually beneficial dialogue platform for both the school and parents.

How Can Parents Involve Themselves in Their Child’s School? Parents need to determine the time they can devote and find something that fits into their schedule. A few ways to inspire you:

#### 1. Become a class parent-helper

Assist the teacher in class for projects, parties, and other events. At the elementary level, an extra pair of hands is always appreciated. You could also help in the main office.



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## 2. Organize an after-school club

Parents who work full-time need additional support for their children especially with homework. You can organize one at the school or a community center.

## 3. Help with extra-curricular activities

Extra-curricular activities like dance, drama, singing go a long way in enriching educational experience for children. Teachers lack the time for making this investment. You could run a program or be a chaperone to one.

## 4. Reading buddies

Many teachers need help to get elementary level children to practice guided reading. You could be a reading buddy and develop fluency and reading skills.

## 5. Get involved in decision and policymaking

You could be part of the team of governors, board, teachers, senior management that undertake crucial decisions for the school. Many schools like to see parents as part of the advisory committee and it is a rewarding experience.

## 6. Help with newsletters and outreach materials

You could provide inputs for the newsletter and other communication methods (via social media) if you have no time for visits.

## 7. Offer counseling services

Graduating classes and secondary schools are in constant need of people who can communicate with children on various issues. From planning proms, offering career advice, counseling children to fundraising projects there is a lot to do.

## 8. Join the Parent-Teacher Association

The starting point to get involved anything remotely associated with the school. Apart from staying abreast about events, it offers support to parents too.

## 9. Participate in school fairs, fundraising events

Schools are part of several community programs and need volunteers to help them. Help with organizing school fairs and other events.

## 10. Share your expertise

If you have a hobby or passion that you pursue, try to share it with the teacher. You could have a standalone presentation or demonstration to encourage kids to pursue it too.

## 11. Start a book club

Get the children and parents of your child's class together with the help of a book they are reading. Start online discussions, debates, and other activities to get children and parents involved.



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#### 12. Bring your neighborhood closer

If you live in a neighborhood where the children seem to attend the same school, try to organize a party or barbecue. It will be a great platform to discuss any issues concerning kids or schools. It will prove to be a great place where you can brainstorm ideas and present it to the school. Such gatherings also prove to be great ways to discuss other issues such as child care, drop-offs to school, carpooling, etc.

#### 13. Attend open-house at school

Attending the open house at school introduces you to the environment your child is going to be exposed for the rest of the academic year. This will help to get acquainted with the curriculum and expectations for your child.

#### 14. Be in constant touch with the school and staff at school

As a parent, it is important to be in constant touch with the teacher and other staff at school. Make sure the teacher is aware of any issues at home. Anything that you believe would impact the child must be known to the school.

#### 15. Organize or set up a program

If your school does not have a program to involve parents, then reach out to other parents and approach the school to organize one. Pioneer it as a cause and seek help from everyone to get it functioning.

### **Strategies for Successful Parental Involvement in Children’s Education**

Successful parent involvement entails active and continuous participation in the children’s education. Here are some strategies that can promote successful parental involvement. (Positive Action, 2021)

#### 1. Educate the Parents

Some parents may not have any experience in getting involved in their children’s academics. They’ll need direction on where to start and tips on how to get involved in a way that benefits the child. Engage parents by holding training and workshops that address: 1) The importance of parental involvement 2) How to create a favorable learning environment at home 3) Ways to track a child’s progress in classes. 4) How to encourage a child to develop positive study habits at home 5) How to guide a child to create academic goals. 6) Many parents may avoid attending these training sessions and 7) Try using incentives like food and prizes to encourage attendance.

#### 2. Create All-Round Activities

Academic activities that get the parent involved such as collaborative homework are great. But it’s important to include school activities that promote SEL. Use SEL enrichment materials that encourage family involvement. Our evidence and research-based Positive Action



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Family Kit promotes SEL learning while strengthening family relationships. Each lesson is a short 15 minutes, which the parents can teach their child at home or in school. It promotes the child’s feeling of self-worth while increasing their interest in learning. As the parent teaches their child, their parenting skills will also improve. You can also organize special parenting classes using the Positive Action Family Curriculum Kit. Parents can learn alongside their children about the importance of positive behavioral choices in improving feelings of self-worth.

### 3. Personalize Parent Involvement

Personalization is important in encouraging parents to be involved in their children’s education. It’s essential to know each family and its unique characteristics. Work on tailoring school-based activities and communications to suit these needs. In a multicultural class, parents with limited English skills, for example, could get frustrated with your communications. This could cause them to avoid getting involved in their child’s education. They could feel uncomfortable attending school meetings and working with teachers. Work on building successful partnerships with this group by providing information and materials in their first language. Bilingual school staff can also help in making communication, such as emails, in the parents’ first language. Find innovative ways to address the specific needs of parents with disabilities. Accommodate them in the learning environment by including varying types of school events and activities. As much as parental involvement is beneficial to the child, some parents may take time to acknowledge it. Understand these parents and give them time to warm up to the idea. Make it clear that no child will be mistreated if the parent is not ready to get involved in the child’s education. At Positive Action, we know the importance of building relationships with all types of parents. We provide a variety of family kits that can easily fit into the lives of busy families. A Spanish Family Kit is also available to cater to non-English speaking families in your school.

### 4. Encourage Open Communication

Open communication between teachers and parents can help in establishing trust and building relationships. This can increase parental involvement. Start by arranging parent-teacher conferences at the start of the school year. Parents and teachers can share a bit about themselves and the parents can ask questions and give their opinions. This will set the tone for open communication throughout the year. Open communication will encourage parents to share their child’s strengths and weaknesses. They’ll make the teacher aware of events happening at home that could affect the child’s behavior in class. Teachers can freely share the child’s progress and make recommendations to improve their SEL and academic growth. You don’t want to overwhelm parents with one or two long, extensive messages. Instead,



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plan for short and regular communications throughout the school year. Using webinars also makes it possible to have face-to-face discussions with parents from any location.

Parents are responsible for every detail of their young children’s lives, from potty training to eating fruits and veggies. When kids finally board the school bus for the first time, most moms and dads breathe a sigh of relief. Finally, you can hand off some of that pressure to someone else, knowing that a qualified teacher will make sure your child receives the education they need.

“Parental involvement in the form of ‘at-home good parenting’ has a significant positive effect on children’s achievement and adjustment even after all other factors shaping attainment have been taken out of the equation. In the primary age range the impact caused by different levels of parental involvement is much bigger than differences associated with variations in the quality of schools. The scale of the impact is evident across all social classes and all ethnic groups” (Learning Ladders Education, 2020)

## Conclusion

Parent engagement in schools can promote positive health behaviors among children and adolescents. For example, students who feel supported by their parents are less likely to experience emotional distress, practice unhealthy eating behaviors, consider or attempt suicide, or disengage from school and learning. In addition, school efforts to promote health among students have been shown to be more successful when parents are involved. For instance, studies have shown that when parents volunteer at their children’s school, the likelihood of their children initiating smoking decreases, and the likelihood of their children meeting the guidelines for physical activity increases. In addition, interventions with a parent engagement component have been shown to increase positive health behaviors such as children’s school-related physical activity. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013)

Parents should know: 1) When to expect communication from educators 2) Which tool they will use—text, email, social media, school website—it’s best if all the teachers use one channel 3) They have an option to choose which updates or information they can receive from the school 4) How to raise concerns and give feedback. And as educators, it’s important to make the parents feel that their opinion counts 5) Whichever tool you choose for communication, ensure that it’s available to all parents. Be sure to share actionable information. You can share details on upcoming activities or homework assignments that the parent can get involved in.



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