



NATIONAL PARENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Parent Involvement Checklist Partnering with Families

Consumer involvement from parents benefits programs and policies for children. Parent interest can improve quality, enhance staff and teacher morale, expand networks, increase public access, and enrich public awareness of children's issues. The following checklist offers steps to building parents as on-going partners with agencies and schools.

1. Develop outreach plans to invite interested parents in during creative brainstorm activities. _____
2. Ensure that both fathers and mothers participate. _____
3. Generate an intergenerational view on issues. _____
4. Assess skills and training needs of parent participants. _____
5. Create quality tasks that comprehensively utilize the assets and contacts of parents. _____
6. Ask parents to take on a specific leadership activity within neighborhood, church and/or other community institutions. _____
7. Record and review all input from parents throughout planning and implementation. _____
8. Create methods of introducing parents to other parents and other child program and policy professionals. _____
9. Offer training for both parents and staff members in the civic skills necessary to attain goals. _____
10. Develop environments where parents speak and lead staff meetings on specified issues. _____
11. Develop mechanisms for group and individual parent feedback to ensure on-going analysis of how your strategy is working. _____

12. Provide policy training that can be used in current project as well as other arenas. _____
13. Minimize professional jargon and return to words that fully describe and bring purpose and spirit back to the issue. _____
14. Bring in civic community leaders to speak on issues. Arrange for parents to interact and become acquainted with policy leaders. _____
15. Model that consumer input and need drives product and strategy. _____
16. Create community talk shows and forums where parents are key informants to issue. _____
17. Ask parents to write up what has happened in program or policy activity work for them. _____
18. Assess next steps of interest or activity with parents after parents have been engaged. _____
19. Assist with placement for parent trainings and continuous civic experience. _____
20. Create a staff environment that connects to family, neighborhood and daily life to keep the heart of family beating in all policy and program design. _____