

HONORING FAMILIES

Do more

- “Hello! Welcome to our school. How may I help you?”
- Welcome signs with name of the school and principal.
- Parent meetings that break into small discussion groups, each picking a leader.
- One-to-one and small group meetings.
- Thanking parents for contributions large or small.
- Meeting and greeting parents before and after school, and going to community events.
- Rotating meetings before school, evenings, and weekends.
- Involving families in selecting a new reading program.
- Surveying families to get their ideas and opinions about activities and programs.

Do less

- “Who are you? What do you want?”
- NO TRESPASSING signs.
- Parent meetings dominated by a few “officers.”
- Large meetings in the school gym.
- Complaining that parents don’t do more.
- Hiding in the office and assigning parent involvement to the assistant principal or teacher’s aide.
- Meeting only during school hours.
- Announcing a new reading program.
- Planning events, then publicizing them to parents.

the most convenient times of day, and days of the week, for meetings and activities. Find out the best ways and places to get information to them—for example, by cell phone, land line, Web site, or e-mail. Post notices at the grocery store, church, nail shop, or community center. Act on their suggestions, and, if you can’t do it right away (or ever), explain why.

Developing Relationships

• • •