



NCPIE Update

A Publication of the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education
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The National Association of School Psychologists Solutions for Parents: 'Success in School/Skills for Life' Online Resource Kit

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has created an electronic '**Success In School/Skills for Life' On-line Resource Kit** that schools can make available for parents through the school website. The Kit is **free** and contains fact sheets on a variety of learning and developmental issues. **Many handouts are available in Spanish and English.**

Providing parents with practical information on topics related to their children's academic, emotional and social development is an important factor in promoting school success. School psychologists are trained to identify and help address a wide range of issues that can impact a child's school experience. School psychological services typically include assessment, counseling, case management, referrals, parent and teacher training, and prevention and intervention on an individual and school-wide basis. The NASP on-line Kit enables schools to offer parents easy access to basic information and increase awareness of your school psychologist as a resource to parents, teachers, and students.

The Fall Kit includes handouts on:

- Academic Motivation: A Handout for Parents**—[English](#), [Spanish](#)
- ADHD: A Primer for Parents**—English
- Attention Problems: Strategies for Parents**—English, Spanish
- Back-to-School Transitions: What Parents Can Do**—[English](#)
- Bullying: What Schools and Parents Can Do**—English

- ☐ **Bus Safety: A Handout for Parents and Teachers**—[English](#)
- ☐ **Homework Survival Guide**—[English](#), [Spanish](#)
- ☐ **Sports Participation for Children: A Parent's Guide**—[English](#)
- ☐ **Stress in Children: A Handout for Parents**—[English](#), [Spanish](#)
- ☐ **Study Skills: A Handout for Parents**—[English](#), [Spanish](#)
- ☐ **What Is a School Psychologists**—[English](#), [Spanish](#)
- ☐ **School Dropout Prevention**—[English](#), [Spanish](#)

Handouts provide background information, suggested strategies, recommended next steps, and additional resources. The information is not intended as a comprehensive prescription and parents should be advised to seek additional help if a problem persists. The handouts include links to additional resources on the NASP and NASP Center websites, but also we encourage you to provide contact information for your school psychologist.

Schools can access the Kit free of charge at www.naspcenter.org/resourcekit, register for the program, and download the fact sheets to your site. NASP will rotate and add to the handouts available throughout the school year. School professionals and organizations (e.g., the PTA) may print the fact sheets individually for hard copy distribution. However, all fact sheets must be disseminated in the original form with the NASP logo and the information credited to NASP, whether in print or on-line format. Other uses or mass dissemination require specific permission from NASP.

This toolkit was shared at the April NCPIE meeting by Antonio Hugues and if you have additional questions please contact Antonio at ahughes@naspweb.org.

NCPIE Update Guest Column Feature

This Month: Harvard Research Project's FINE Network

Developing the Human Resource Capacity for Effective Family-School-Community Partnerships

As an outgrowth of its 1997 research report, *New Skills for New Schools*, the Harvard Family Research Project initiated the Family Involvement Network of Educators (FINE). The report documented the lack of teacher preparation in family involvement at a time when numerous education policies were emphasizing family involvement, and families themselves were beginning to play a more active role in school reforms sweeping the nation.

FINE believes that building the capacity of people for effective and meaningful family-school-community partnerships is essential to achieve high performing schools and successful students. To this end FINE offers a wide range of resources to support teacher preparation in family involvement as well as to enhance the family involvement work of school professionals, parent leaders and community-based organizations.

Since its founding in September 2000 FINE has grown to over 1000 members, composed of faculty in higher education, school professionals, directors and trainers of community-based and national organizations, parent leaders, and graduate students. Through the FINE website (www.finenetwork.org) this diverse group keeps abreast of research trends and gains access to training tools. Members also exchange ideas about promising practices.

Research

Based on member interests in research, FINE solicits member contributions of brief articles and papers focusing on a variety of family involvement topics. Some examples are:

- Promoting Involvement of Recent Immigrant Families in their Children's Education, by Shari Golan and Dana Petersen from SRI International
- Getting Parents 'Ready' for Kindergarten: The Role of Early Childhood Education, by Holly Kreider from Harvard Family Research Project
- Family Involvement in Education: The Role of Teacher Education, by Vivian Gunn Morris from the University of Memphis, College of Education.

To help members gain access to the latest research in family involvement, FINE provides bibliographies that are updated yearly and are organized around special topics such as family involvement and student achievement.

Training Tools

FINE has developed teaching case narratives of problematic situations in home-school relations for classroom use. These cases engage students in problem-solving and reflection on common dilemmas of practice, such as:

- How can teachers work together with parents to handle a middle school youth's disruptive behavior in the classroom?
- How can parents and teachers reconcile their differences about bilingual education?
- How can a principal deal with dissatisfaction among parents with the school reporting system?

To facilitate the use of these cases, FINE members have access to support materials such as commentaries, teaching notes and a "how to" guide illustrated with one case.

Members' Exchange

FINE offers opportunities for its members to share their best practices and stay on top of developments in the field through the following resources:

- The FINE Forum, a quarterly e-newsletter that highlights promising programs and the practices of teachers, parents and educational leaders
- Member Insights, a section for member opinions on provocative questions such as, "Does the workplace hinder family involvement in children's education?" and "Does family involvement in high school matter?"

- E-mail announcements, sent monthly to update members on new research, publications and training tools.

For more information on FINE and its free membership, visit www.finenetwork.org

Innovative Parent Involvement Toolkit for Middle and High School Teachers

Recruiting New Teachers, Inc. (RNT) has developed a new toolkit, **Connect for Success: Building a Teacher, Parent, Teen Alliance**. Funded by the MetLife Foundation, this toolkit is designed to help new teachers build partnerships with parents, especially those in high poverty middle and high schools.

This publication offers strategies and tools to help teachers break down barriers to parent participation, establish open, two-way communication with parents and mobilize the resources parents bring to the education of their children. The toolkit also shows how this alliance can help parents improve their children's academic future while improving teachers' day-to-day practice and job satisfaction.

Section topics include:

- Chapter 1: Introduction: Linking Family Involvement and Student Success
- Chapter 2: Improving Home-School Communications
- Chapter 3: Helping Parents Support Schoolwork at Home
- Chapter 4: Coming Together to Guide Students
- Chapter 5: Sparking Whole School Change

You can download the entire toolkit by visiting <http://www.recruitingteachers.org/news/2002toolkit.html>. To download an order form to order a toolkit call RNT at 617-489-6000 or visit them on-line at www.recruitingteachers.org.

FAPE Update

IDEA Partnerships Award State Replication Grants

The Project Coordinating Committee of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Partnerships has awarded grants to eight states to replicate on a state level the IDEA National Summit held in June 2001 in Washington, D.C.

Colorado, Louisiana and West Virginia were awarded \$25,000 each to implement their state summit proposals. Connecticut, Indiana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and South Carolina will receive \$20,000 each. A key requirement for the awards was that proposals reflect a collaboration of community stakeholders in planning and executing their summits. The grants are being awarded through the state education agencies.

The IDEA Partnerships, a network of 106 organizations, collaborates to inform families, professionals and the public about IDEA, and to improve educational results for children with disabilities. The U. S. Department of Education funded four projects to build the Partnership, drawing on organizations from four key interest groups: families and advocates (FAPE); teachers and related service providers (ASPIIRE); administrators (ILIAD); and policymakers (PMP). The Project Coordinating Committee leads the Partnership.

President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education

The 24-member President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education has been holding a series of meetings across the country that will culminate with a report recommending reforms for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The last remaining meeting to be held will take place May 30-31st in Washington, D. C. For information on location and meeting time please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/inits/commissionsboards/whspecialeducation/meetings.html>

NCPIE is a core partner in the FAPE Project

For more information on FAPE visit them on-line at www.fape.org

Upcoming NCPIE Meetings and Presentations

May 29, 2002

9:00 a.m. - Noon

NEA Building

Conference Room B

Panel Presentation Come participate in a discussion on the implementation of the ESEA "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001." We'll discuss its impact and implications for family involvement.

MegaSkills Celebrates 30 Years of Parent Involvement

On April 26, 2002 the nonprofit Home and School Institute, with programs in over 4,000 schools nationwide, marked its 30th year of pioneering work in the field of school/parent involvement to build student achievement.

The Institute's MegaSkills Programs develop students' character and academics. Two new reports are now available from the Institute: from the Edgewood District of San Antonio, Texas and from Winslow-Township, New Jersey, Edgewood, a Hispanic district known for its history of protecting parent and student rights, with the National Education Association has selected MegaSkills as its key program in working with parents. Results indicate a marked increase in parent involvement at both the elementary and secondary grades. In Winslow-Township, NJ using the MegaSkills Classroom Program, success for school #1 records: school

suspensions decreased 75%: bus disciplinary reports decreased by 91% and office referrals to the principal by 46%.

At the 30th anniversary event, Harriett Stonehill, Director of the MegaSkills Education Center of the Institute, will be honored for her nationwide work with the program.

The Institute, founded by Dr. Dorothy Rich, develops teacher training programs and produces materials for teachers and parents to use in building student responsibility and motivation for increased academic achievement. For more information on the work of the Institute, MegaSkills and the new reports, contact: MegaSkills Education Center of the Home and School Institute 1500 Massachusetts Avenue. NW, Washington, DC 20005 (202) 466-3633 Fax (202) 833-1400 Email the Institute at: edstaff@MegaSKillsHSI.org. Access them online at www.MegaSkillsHSI.org, & www.HighSchoolMegaSkills.org