

PARENT FOCUS

Fall 2011

Putnam County Schools

Volume 3, Issue 1

Family Engagement Coordinator

My name is Jackie Reynolds. I have been an educator for 19 years. My mom was the most important person in my education. She may not have been able to help me with my homework, but she instilled in me the importance of an education. It wasn't just about how much money I could make, but it was about being the best I could be.

The most important job we have is being a parent. It is also the hardest! We don't have training manuals to help us. Each child is different and has varying needs. I hope that you take the time to read this newsletter. I know you don't have a lot of time so I hope the information will be short, simple, informative, and to the point.

You may contact me by email @ jreynolds3@k12tn.net or by phone @ 265-6287. I also have a website with lots of information about Family Engagement. You can find it @ <https://sites.google.com/a/pcsstn.com/familyengagement/>

What Research says about Parent Involvement?

- School age children spend 70% of their waking hours outside of school.
- The earlier a parent becomes involved in their child's education, the more powerful the effects.
- The most effective forms of parental involvement are those which engage parents in working directly with their children on learning activities at home.
- Lack of parental involvement is the BIGGEST problem facing public schools.
- When children practice reading at home with parents, the children make significant gains in reading compared to those that only practice at school.

The most consistent predictor of academic achievement and social adjustment are parent

expectations of the child's academic attainment and satisfaction with their child's education at school.

Decades of research show that when parents are involved, students have:

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation, better self-esteem
- Lower rates of suspension
- Decreased use of drugs and alcohol
- Fewer instances of violent behavior

Families whose children are doing well in school exhibit the following characteristics:

- 1. Establish a daily family routine.**
Examples: Providing time and a quiet place to study, assigning responsibility for household chores, being firm about bedtime and having dinner together.
- 2. Monitor out-of-school activities.**
Examples: Setting limits on TV watching, checking up on children when parents are not home, arranging for after-school activities and supervised care.
- 3. Model the value of learning, self-discipline, and hard work.**
Examples: Communicating through questioning and conversation, demonstrating that achievement comes from working hard.
- 4. Express high but realistic expectations for achievement.**
Examples: Setting goals and standards that are appropriate for children's age and maturity, recognizing and encouraging special talents, informing friends and family about successes.
- 5. Encourage children's development/progress in school.**
Examples: Maintaining a warm and supportive home, showing interest in children's progress at school, helping with homework, discussing the value of a good education and possible career options, staying in touch with teachers and school staff.

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