

# Family Involvement

**“The family seems to be the most effective and economical system for fostering and sustaining the child’s development. Without family involvement, intervention is likely to be unsuccessful, and what few effects are achieved are likely to disappear once the intervention is discontinued.”**

—Urie Bronfenbrenner, Harvard Family Research Project, 2006

A growing body of research demonstrates that when families are actively involved in their children’s learning, children arrive at school ready to engage and succeed. Students of involved parents get better grades, score higher on standardized tests, have better attendance records, drop out less often, and have higher aspirations and more positive attitudes toward work and homework. An increase in family participation in pre-kindergarten programs, for example, has been linked to greater student academic motivation and stronger social and emotional skills among all young children, regardless of ethnic and socioeconomic background. As parents and other family members help out in their child’s pre-kindergarten program, they experience firsthand the difference collaboration makes. Such experience often encourages the family to stay involved throughout their child’s school career, providing crucial support for school reform and increasing the chances that their children will succeed (Redding et al., 2011).

And the benefits of family involvement extend to teens as well. Bogenschneider (2004) studied 8,000 high school students in nine high schools in Wisconsin and California. With only a couple of exceptions, when parents were involved in their teen’s school, students reported higher grades in school. What’s more, when either mothers or fathers were involved, it benefited both boys and girls across grades, ethnicity, and education background—and made the most difference for those children who needed it most.

- 1 Early Literacy
- 2 Family Involvement
- 3 Access to Books
- 4 Expanded Learning
- 5 Mentoring Partnerships