

Parent Involvement in My Classroom

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EDU 413

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18 December 2017

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

### **Introduction**

Parent involvement is a critical component to the success of any child. In my classroom we value parent involvement as it is a key component to a successful educational experience. There are six types of parent involvement I follow in my classroom. These include parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community. I work as a classroom teacher in the early childhood setting (kindergarten) and therefore, my strategies are geared for that age group, however, they can be adapted to fit the needs of any age group. Below I outline one strategy I use to incorporate each of the six categories of parent involvement in my classroom.

# Parenting

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

### **Strategy:**

Parent Newsletters

### **How I would use it:**

I plan on using parent newsletters to keep my parents informed of not only what is going on in the classroom but in the world of education. As, educational professionals we have access or more awareness of research and/or resources available to children. Our job is to pass this knowledge on to the parents and/or guardians of our students. Parent newsletters allows us to keep them informed of school decisions, research, give them strategies to use at home, and provide resources both online or within the community that may be beneficial to their child such as sports, afterschool care, science center, etc. As teachers, we are a resource for not only our students, but our parents and parent newsletters are a great way to make this happen.

### **When:**

I will create a parent newsletter monthly. I will distribute them via email and link on classroom website. For parents, who do not have access to the internet I will mail their newsletter to them. This will keep all parents up to date on the newest research in child development. They will also be able to take part in trainings and events coming up that month. In addition, they will have a wealth of strategies and resources to assist their child in successful all-around development.

### **With Whom:**

This strategy focuses on the parents. Parents know their child best and therefore, proving them with more information will only add to this knowledge. By being a resource to them we are equipping them to make the best decisions possible for their children and ultimately, benefitting the child as a whole

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

**Artifact:** Here is an example of what my parent newsletter would look like. I would probably implement links and/or articles on child development and resources in the community that may be helpful to meet the needs of children during this stage of development.

### Preschool Newsletter

<b>LEAP STATE PRESCHOOL (3-5 YRS)</b> <b>AM TEACHER:</b> Heather Ganser 8:00-11:00 - Rm 13 - 619-390-2685  <b>PM TEACHER:</b> Bridget Gambardella 11:30-2:30 - Rm 9 - 619-390-2533  <b>LEAP WIP-A-ROUND CARE (2-5 YRS)</b> <b>CARE DIRECTOR:</b> Robbyn Bowman Rm 14 - 619-390-2391 Hours of operation: 6:30AM - 6:00PM	<b>LEAP PRESCHOOL (3-5 YRS)</b> <b>AM TEACHER:</b> Nicki Fisher 8:00-11:00 - Rm 9 - 619-390-2533  <b>AM/PM TEACHER:</b> Catherine Calvert AM - 8:00-11:00 PM - 11:30-2:30 Rm.15 - 619-390-2587  <b>LEAP EARLY ADVANTAGE PRESCHOOL (2-3 YRS)</b> <b>AM TEACHER:</b> Janet Rossi-Davis 8:00-11:00 - Rm 8 - 619-390-2574
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**OCTOBER IS FIRE AWARENESS MONTH**



The week of October 9 - October 15 is Fire Prevention week, sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. It is a time to remember the importance of learning and teaching fire safety. "Young children are particularly vulnerable to the threat of fire, with children under five suffering a fire death rate of more than twice the national average," says a director of the Learn Not To Burn Foundation. We can help change these frightening statistics by teaching children about fire safety. The NLTB Foundation has identified eight key fire safety behaviors: "Stay away from hot things that hurt; tell a grown-up when you find matches and lighters; stop, drop and roll; cool a burn; crawl low under smoke; know the sound of a smoke detector; practice an escape plan; and recognize the fire-fighter as a helper". Here are a few simple and practical activities to help your child begin to learn about fire safety: Visit a fire station; Read single books about fire fighters and fire safety; Keep matches and lighters locked away and teach your child that if he/she finds some, to immediately tell an adult; Learn the "Stop, drop and roll" technique; Make an escape plan with your whole family; Choose a meeting place outside. To learn more about Fire Safety for preschool children go to [www.fireproofchildren.com](http://www.fireproofchildren.com). For fire safety games and activities in English, Spanish, or French go to [www.alwaysbesafe.com](http://www.alwaysbesafe.com). To practice a fire escape plan go to [www.homefire.org](http://www.homefire.org) and play the game, "Help Mickey Make it Out."



**KIDS NEWS**



We had a great first month of school! We're pleased to see how well the children are adapting to their new environment. They are remembering our preschool routine and following the classroom rules. Many of us have made some new friends and we will continue to work on this as a group throughout the year! Thank you for all your support and cooperation with this transition, we greatly appreciate it!

**PARENT HANDBOOK REVIEW**

It is a requirement, for anyone dropping off and picking up your child, to sign his or her name on the DAILY ROSTER. They must write a full, readable, signature. We know this is hard for some, but we need to know who drops off and picks up your child for safety reasons, so, NO INITIALS AND NO SCRIBBLES please. No one under the age of 16 may pick up your child at any time, or sign the child in or out.



### October 2011

**REAL VS MAKE BELIEVE PLAY**

Why are Superheroes so popular with preschool children?? By definition, superheroes are larger than life, courageous, powerful, and seemingly able to overcome any obstacle with great physical prowess while doing great deeds at the same time. Young children, facing the challenges of learning many new skills, may often feel small, helpless, fearful, unable to accomplish what they desire, or troubled—in other words, just the opposite of superheroes. It's no wonder that many preschoolers are drawn to superhero play. Through play they can feel brave, fearless, in control of their world, outside the ordinary and just plain good!

One of the most important steps in fostering healthy superhero play is to be able to recognize the difference between action-oriented, rough and tumble play and true aggression. For example, typical, exuberant play includes falling down, hitting without hurting, diving, yelling or other loud mimicking vocalizations, etc... while aggressive play includes domination, threats, humiliation, or real hitting and fighting. Adults should step in and stop aggression when children stop having fun, show real anger or fear, or begin real hitting. When action-oriented play is confused with aggression, it's more likely that both types of play will be stopped and children run the risk of losing the benefits of healthy free play.

Through play, children learn how to get along in the real world in a positive way. Through teachable moments and deliberate discussion, adults can help children understand the power of real heroism. The first steps in creating the heroes of tomorrow are to help preschoolers today believe in themselves and their ability to make a difference. They can begin this process in play!

**PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)**

We would like to encourage you to be a part of our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and participate in 3 meetings per year to help give your ideas, suggestions, and comments about our preschool program. This year we will be meeting on Tuesdays, the following dates and times:

- Oct 11-11:00-11:30am Rm 13 (Goals for year, Parent Volunteer opportunities)
- Jan 10-11:00-11:30am Rm 13 (Review DRDP Assessment results, Parent surveys)
- Mar 13-11:00-11:30am Room 13 (Review Parent surveys, ECERS results, goals for next year)

**PUMPKIN SMOOTHIE RECIPE**



Ingredients per serving:

- ½ banana
- ¼ cup vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt
- Pumpkin spice to taste
- 1 tablespoon canned pumpkin

Steps: \*Use plastic knives to cut slices of banana and add to blender. Measure out ice cream and canned Pumpkin, add to blender. Add a sprinkle of Pumpkin Pie Spice to taste. Blend ingredients until mixed and foamy and enjoy!!

**"Wherever life takes you...enjoy the ride!"**

Please check the Preschool website for our monthly calendar and information at [www.lssusd.net](http://www.lssusd.net)

# Communicating

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

### **Strategy:**

Class Website

### **How I would use it:**

A class website is a wonderful way to communicate with parents and staff members, who play a role in your classroom. I plan on having a website that keeps parents up to date with what is happening in the classroom and school. The website will include a calendar containing class and schoolwide events. There will be a tab for each subject area outlining what we are working on and where we are heading in each area. Another component of the website, will be a discussion board where parents can communicate with myself and/or other parents about questions or concerns within the classroom or upcoming event. If parents have a concern with their child specifically and/or a conflict they are encouraged to message me privately to address their concerns.

### **When:**

I will update the class website as time allows throughout my busy day. I want parents and staff members to be able to check the website to invoke conversation with their child or student about what they are working on in school and/or prepare them for what is coming next. This will result in daily and/or weekly updates depending on what we have going on at that time.

### **With Whom:**

This website will be accessible to parents of the students in my class and staff members within our school. Parents will have to sign a form allowing me to post pictures of their child and information for other parents and staff members to see. The website will have high security settings to ensure the safety of my students is not compromised.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

**Artifact:** Below is an example of what my class room website may look like.



The screenshot shows a colorful website for Mrs. Connell's Class. At the top, a red banner reads "MRS. CONNELL'S CLASS". Below this is a large illustration of children playing in a park, with the text "WELCOME to Room 14" overlaid. A red navigation bar contains links for Home, Homework, Everyday Math, The Basics, Kids' Space, Leo, Photo Gallery, and more... The main content area features a section for "Picnic Lunch and Field Day" with an illustration of a picnic basket and a red t-shirt. A reminder text states: "Just a reminder that Friday, May 31 is the Family Picnic Lunch and Field Day! Some important details about this special day: ➤ Third graders are the RED TEAM. Students should wear a red t-shirt or a shirt with red on it. Our Leonard birthday shirts or Camp Almena shirts are perfect!". To the right, there is a "Site Search" box with a search icon and a "School Calendar" link. A circular logo for "LEONARD LEOPARDS" featuring a tiger's face is also present.



# Learning at Home

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

### **Strategy:**

Take-Home Activities

### **How I would use it:**

In order to spark learning at home, I will provide take-home activities for each student in my class. The packets will include various activities that celebrate each month. There will be an activity for each subject area we focus on in our classroom. I will have differentiated activities for students who need modifications and adaptations. Each packet will include all the materials needed for each activity, so families are not responsible for providing any materials. This is to ensure the activities are feasible for all families. The activities will be a combination of individual, partner, or group games to encourage family members to take part in the child's educational journey.

### **When:**

The packets will be distributed monthly. This will ensure that the activities are appropriate for each student's ability level in each subject. This also gives me an opportunity to implement pieces that a student may need extra work on. Also, by switching the activities monthly, students will remain engaged as they will have something new and exciting to look forward to each month.

### **With Whom:**

These take-home activities focus on family involvement. The activities are targeted for each student but are set up in a manner that requires the involvement of others. The intent is to get family members, along with others who play a role in the child's life, to become more involved in the child's education.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

**Artifact:** Here is an example of what the take-home activities/games may look like and include.



# Volunteering

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

### **Strategy:**

Class Service Project

### **How I would use it:**

Each year I will have my class do a class service project. This will also be our PBL for the year, as we will implement the service project into each subject area. For example, we may graph the amount of blankets we made or money we received in math, while keeping a journal of our volunteering experience in language arts. Our class service project will teach students and families the importance of reaching out and helping those in need. The project will also provide opportunities for students and family members to work together for the good of our community, which will help to strengthen relationships. The project may be something we can do within our school or one that takes us out into the community. A class service project is a wonderful way to get students, families, and staff members working together for a common purpose.

### **When:**

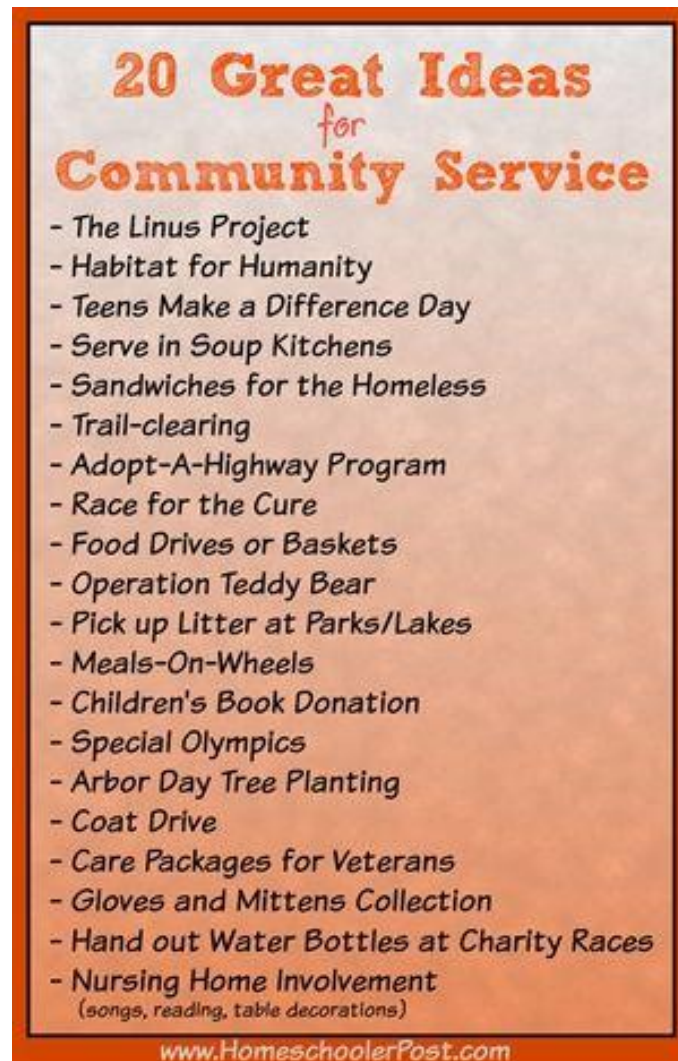
I will implement one service project a year. This will give us time to plan and carry out the project to the best of our abilities. We will choose one as a class at the beginning of the year, that can be carried out throughout the year. We will work on it daily, while applying it to different subjects and create volunteer opportunities for our class, families, and other students and staff within our school to get involved.

### **With Whom:**

A class service project is a wonderful way to bring community members, students, families, and school staff together. This strategy focuses on getting everyone involved in bettering our school and community.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

**Artifact:** Below is a list of ideas for class service projects. Some may be difficult with for my age group but they can be modified and/or new ideas can be generated to better fit my students.



# Decision Making

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

### **Strategy:**

Survey Monkey

### **How I would use it:**

Survey Monkey is a website I will use to for decision making in my class, with parents, and with fellow staff members. Survey Monkey provides templates which you can use to create surveys, polls, quizzes, etc. They are accessible via email, website, social media, etc. I will use Survey Monkey to do general decision making within and for my class. For example, I may send out a survey or post one on our class website regarding how we should raise money for our class service project. Survey Monkey will be used for general decision making. Decisions regarding a specific student and/or situation will be done through meetings, phone calls, etc. I will conduct surveys via email, class website, and will mail out to parents if necessary.

### **When:**

I will use Survey Monkey whenever a decision needs to be made as a group. If it is a decision that needs to be made in class, I will have students pull up the class website and take it through there, as I guide them using the active board. If it is a decision that needs to be made by parents I will email it to them or they can take it through a link on the class website. I will also use Survey Monkey for feedback from students and families.

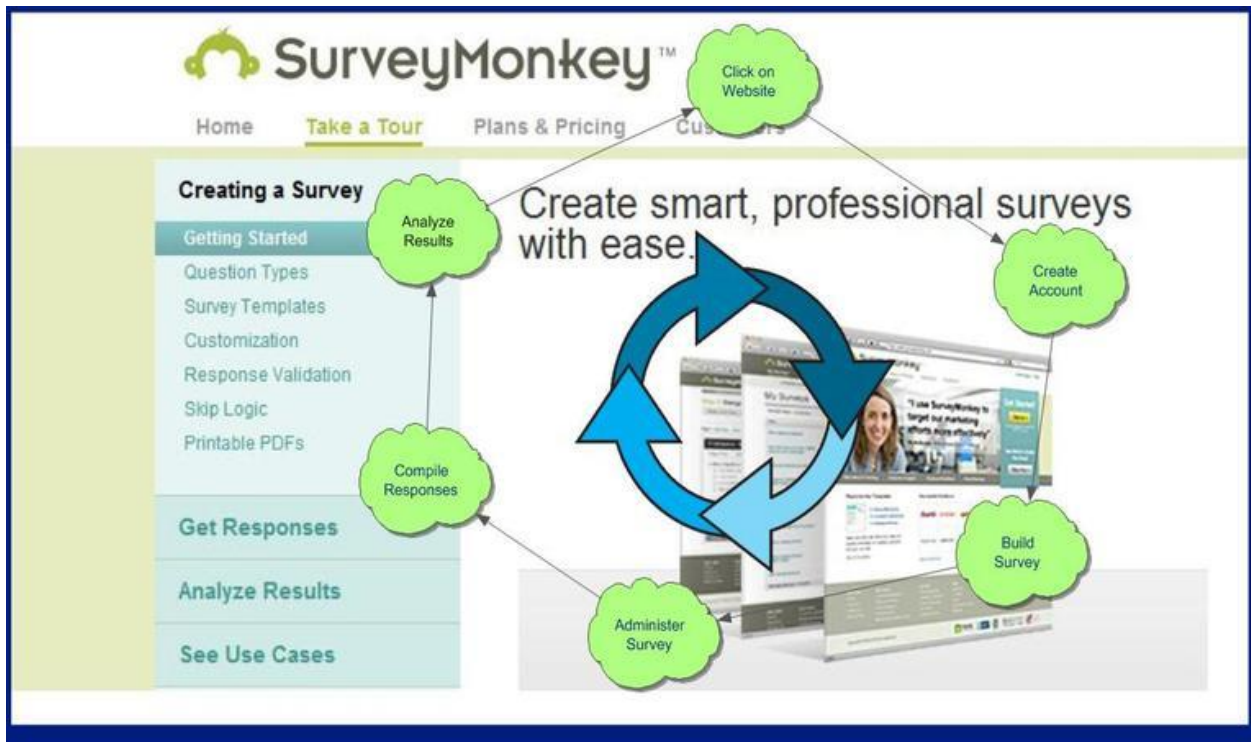
### **With Whom:**

Survey Monkey can be used with anyone. I will use it within my class to encourage student driven decisions. I will use it with families for decision making and feedback. I can also use it with staff, if a group of us need to make a decision based on a student or upcoming event.



**Artifact:** Below is a glimpse of what Survey Monkey looks like and a link to the website.

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com>



# **Collaborating with Community**

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

**Strategy:**

Meet a Community Member Day

**How I would use it:**

Meet a Community Member Day, is a strategy I will use to bring the community to our classroom. My goal is to have my students meet and learn about members of our community. I want my students to be comfortable interacting with community helpers such as doctors, policemen, firefighters, etc. I want to create a connection they may use later on in life. On Meet a Community Member Day, I will have a community member come into the classroom and explain what they do within the community. Then I will invite them to stay and participate in a class activity, so they have the opportunity to engage and form a relationship with the students.

**When:**

I will hold Meet a Community Member Day once a month. This will provide an opportunity for students to get to know a variety of community members and create connections. We will also gain different points of view which is critical to developing the child as a whole.

**With Whom:**

This strategy focuses on students, community members, and families. Parents will be invited to Meet a Community Member Day. Some parents may even be the community member we are meeting.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN MY CLASSROOM

**Artifact:** The picture below is of a police officer reading to a class. This is how I picture Meet a Community Member Day looking in my classroom.



## References

Getting Parents Involved. (n.d.). Retrieved December 18, 2017, from

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/strategy/strategy005.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/strategy/strategy005.shtml)

Teaching Strategies to Involve Parents. (n.d.). Retrieved December 18, 2017, from

<http://www.teachhub.com/teaching-strategies-involve-parents>

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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/>

“19 Proven Tips for Getting Parents Involved at School.” *Edutopia*,

[www.edutopia.org/groups/classroom-management/783266](http://www.edutopia.org/groups/classroom-management/783266).

I also used the checklist that was provided to us via Canvas:

<https://canvas.umary.edu/courses/19053/files/2897242/download?verifier=1xZxukrtR7GwSCLQMwoM7PpcZTDtHF2trSyLKcLR&wrap=1>