

Helpful Tips to Consider!

Assignment #5

Read the following list. Highlight in yellow, the activities you have done previously. Highlight in pink or green ideas that you would like to try in your center. Talk to your center director about the possibility of scheduling one of these activities.

- ❖ Every week make positive phone calls. Let parents know that their child had a great day. Maybe the child reached a goal that was set by the teacher and child. The child passed a test or made a wonderful presentation in class. It doesn't take much time to tell a parent that their child did something worthy of a call. We call when things go wrong. We need to call when things go right."
- ❖ Don't assume that Jennifer Peabody's mother is Mrs. Peabody. She could well have been married again since Jennifer was born. Check your records ahead of time to make sure you've got the parents' names right. And don't assume that the wrinkled gray-haired gentleman coming in with Johnny is his grandfather. It could be his father, or an uncle. Politely ask. Try not to talk to the Smiths about their son "Stan" when their son's name is "Steve".
- ❖ In routine parent conferences, it's unusual to run into parents who are abusive and hostile. But it can happen. Try to not be rude, whatever the provocation. Hear out the parents in as pleasant a manner as possible, without getting defensive if you can.
- ❖ Let parents know you're interested in their opinions, are eager to answer their questions and want to work with them throughout the year to help make their child's education the best.
- ❖ Carry a small Post it pad and pen in your pocket. This makes it much simpler for you to write short anecdotal as you watch the children working. Make sure you include the following critical information: Name Date Description (example) Jesse 5/25/00 While playing in the block area with Liam, Jesse stacked 18 Legos and counted them correctly. These notes make it easier and faster to prepare for parent teacher conferences or just to mention to the parents from time to time.
- ❖ Begin a simple picture journals in your class. Get a class mascot, "Mr. Bear", or something similar. Every day Mr. Bear gets hugs and lots of love, but on the weekend Mr. Bear gets lonely. So each Friday pick a name out of a hat and the selected child takes Mr. Bear home for the weekend. There is also a Mr. Bear journal. Ask that the child draw a picture of his weekend with Mr. Bear and that the parent write just a few words about the picture. On Monday during Sharing Time talk about Mr. Bear's weekend with Johnny. This will give the children a better understanding of the journaling process, but it also opens up a line of communication with the child and parent about what they are doing at school.
- ❖ Plan a Family Reading Night. The kids (and parents) can wear pajamas and bring stuffed animals for this event. Supply hot chocolate with marshmallows. To make it more elaborate, parents could also be invited to a soup supper beforehand. The teachers can display reading information handouts for parents. Display an array of books for the families along with props, such as; Red Riding Hood doll with that book, The Three Bears with that book, Cinderella doll with book, and "reading glasses" (sunglasses with the darkened lenses taken out) for parents and children to wear, if they so wished. Parents can fill out part of a "bookworm" to hang in the classrooms the next day. The children will be amazed at how long the "bookworm" was. A fun, educational event!
- ❖ Some teachers like to do family art day with their students and parents. It is a way for all to get to know each other better. Everyone dresses in clothes that can be mess up. Then break out paint, crayons, odds and ends of string, tongue depressors, fuzzy balls, glue and any thing else you can think of. Award each

family a prize for their creation, and then display it for the whole center to see. Tons of fun and laughs during this time.

- ❖ Parent involvement is a key part of a successful program. To reinforce how important it is, a bulletin board theme could be . . . "Parents: The Most Important Piece of the Puzzle" Each family has a piece of a cut up poster. When they volunteer, their piece gets to be put into the "puzzle". The parents LOVE it!
- ❖ Home/School Connection Folder
Use a system to communicate with parents through a daily folder. Each child needs a duo tang folder (folder with two pockets and 3 prongs in the middle) that he/she takes back and forth from school and home daily. The front of the folder is labeled with a "Home/School Connection Folder" sticker as well as the child's name. A school handbook could stay in the middle of the notebook secured by the prongs. It is there for easy referral of policies, etc. for parents. The pocket on the left side should be labeled "Notes". ALL notes going home to parents are put in these pockets. ALL notes, lunch money, etc. sent to school should be in this same pocket. The other pocket could be labeled "Book". The children choose a classroom library book to take home each day. There are many variations of this same system. It teaches the children responsibility in bring the folder to school each day. No more digging in book bags! It's all in the folder! These folders cost about .20 each. They need to be replaced mid-year.
- ❖ When you pass out notices like picture day or newsletters, put each child's name at the top of the paper. You will know which parents didn't get the paper and you can personally give it to them the next day.



❖ **Topics For Parent Education Programs**

- ❖ A great way to build relationships with the parents in your classroom/school is to hold parent education meetings. These meeting can be a question and answer time, hands-on workshops, or informative. Here are some topics you might use:
 - ❖ Separation Anxiety
 - ❖ Ages and Stages of Child Development
 - ❖ Discipline and Guidance Techniques
 - ❖ Dealing With Children's Fears
 - ❖ Sibling Rivalry
 - ❖ Language and Speech Development
 - ❖ Make and Take Art Ideas To Use At Home
 - ❖ Dealing With Temper Tantrums
 - ❖ Hands-on, Nutritious, Cooking Ideas To Use With Your Child
 - ❖ The Importance of Play
 - ❖ Good Toys For Young Children
 - ❖ How To Make Inexpensive Toys and Equipment
 - ❖ Make and Take Math Activities To Use At Home



Rewrite each of the 6 steps to problem-solving in your own words. Then, try out the process with a friend or family member. Select a topic that would be difficult, but necessary to discuss with a friend, other than the example given in the article. Role-play the discussion using the 6-step process.

Step 1 –

Step 2 –

Step 3 –

Step 4 –

Step 5 –

Step 6 –

Topic chosen for role-play: