

These tips were taken out of the book; *Beyond the Bake Sale-The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*, written by Anne T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson, and Don Davies. Tips were also provided from classroom teachers.

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**Beyond the
BAKE
SALE**
The Essential Guide to
Family-School Partnerships



Anne T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp,
Vivian R. Johnson, and Don Davies

"Hundreds of good ideas, reviews, and resources for educators, parents, and policy leaders."
—Joseph L. Epstein, Director of the Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships,
Johns Hopkins University

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SCHOOL TO HOME & HOME TO SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

*Tips for effective communication
between parents, children, and
schools.*

Schools

-Treat parents with respect and make them feel welcome upon entering the school's environment. Provide a family questionnaire to send home.

-Treat parents as partners in their child's education.

-Provide translators/interpreters or hire home school liaisons.

-Give tours of the school, this is especially helpful with families new to the community.

-Speak with parents about the best forms of communication.

-Host back to school nights, family fun nights, or book fairs. Invite all families and family members to these events as well as other school events.

-Provide "check-ups" for parents throughout the school year. Ask them what they think is benefiting their child and what problems or concerns they may have.

-Build curriculum of home by sending materials home regularly for parents to go over with their child. Inform families of resources, including the school's website.

-Ask kids about outside of school activities.

Students

-Fill parents in on what you did throughout the day.

-Make sure the materials that are given out, for your parents, are given to your parents.

-Let your parents know about events going on in your school, let them know where they can sign up or volunteer.

-Encourage parents to communicate with teachers about your problems or success both in and outside of the school.

-Give an agenda or calendar of events to your parents so they know what you did that day or what you'll be doing that week.

-Allow your parents to look over your home-work; this will help them know what you're learning about and if you understand the subject.

-Ask your teachers weekly if there's anything you need to give to your parents, or ask your parents if there's anything they need to give to your teachers.

-Let your parents and teachers **both** know if you're struggling. This way, neither of them will be left out and they will be able to think of a solution together.

Families/Parents

Attend conferences, parent(s) night, and school events. Volunteer at sporting events, field trips, dances, or any other school events that you can.

-Email teachers on a weekly basis asking what will be done in that class each week, and if there's anything you can do at home to help your child with that subject.

- Look over your child's home-work, ask to quiz them while they're studying, and talk to them about what happened throughout their day.

-Ask for translators/interpreters when needed, or if you speak a different language at home, ask for materials to help your child in your preferred language.

-Don't depend on just the teacher or other school staff to contact you. A student benefits the most when both sides are involved with the student's education.

-Help your school understand your family. Provide background information as well as your concerns as parent(s).

-Get to know other parents in the school, as well as other kids.
Volunteer at sporting events, field trips, dances, or any other school events that you can.

Keys
To
Success

1. Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students.
2. Conduct effective communications from school to home and home to school about programs and student progress.
3. Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.
4. Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.
5. Include families as participants in school decisions, develop leaders and representatives.
6. Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, also provide services to the community.