Family Engagement Practices for Academic Achievement

Welcoming environment *(Family Event)*

Engaging pre-event contact
Marquee notice and parking lot guidance
Name tags, reserved seating with teacher
Welcome
A *common language* about family engagement
Translators

Sense of urgency presentation *(Baseline Data)*

Large, readable grid of class-wide reading and/or math scores
Visual markings where all children need to be to pass AIMS
Personal notice where the family's child scored on class wide grid
The value of family engagement explained

Immediate Engagement *(Your Child's Prescription)*

Initial family engagement training by classroom teacher(s)
Specific growth needs for each family's child
Hands-on experience in sessions to support reading and/or math (3 per year)
Take-home assignment materials
Scheduled reporting back to parents on individual student's progress

Coaching and support for home learning *(At-home roles)*

Work together at home on prescribed assignments with school provided materials
Maintain logs on student interaction with assignments and return to teacher each week
Progress updates from teacher to parents
Families encouraged to observe reading and/or math in child's classroom at any time
Families can always meet with teacher at any time.

Celebrate the family engagement results *(Growth Data)*

Progress of school-wide family engagement compiled
School and community presentation
Results presented at the next year's initial family engagement event

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Links for highly relevant additional information:

- Creighton Schools, Arizona: (2 family engagement "how-to" videos) http://www.creightonschools.org/departments/communityed/videos.php
- Harvard Family Friendly Schools: http://www.familyfriendlyschools.com/EngageProcess/index.htm;
- Harvard Family Friendly Research Project: http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/academic-parent-teacher-teams-reorganizing-parent-teacher-conferences-around-data