Parent Involvement Plan for Lincoln Elementary

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Parent Involvement Plan for Lincoln Elementary

Michelle Kaune
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Activities to increase Parent Involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>School-wide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attend school meetings</td>
<td>Maintain ongoing communication with parent</td>
<td>Establishes which improve state testing system and expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend student performances</td>
<td>Create a welcoming environment which fosters a culture of well-being</td>
<td>Create a welcoming environment which fosters a culture of well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend school social events</td>
<td>Create structures which encourage family involvement</td>
<td>Facilitates activities for parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain ongoing communication with teacher—in person, phone, email, letters</td>
<td>Instruct parents how to help their child with homework</td>
<td>Create structures which encourage family involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join Parent Teacher Association (PTA)</td>
<td>Maintain high expectations</td>
<td>Involves parents in advisory committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer in small ways</td>
<td>Home visits</td>
<td>Survey parents in decision making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask students about their school day</td>
<td>Nonacademic communications with parents</td>
<td>Have a parent coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Level Guide books</td>
<td>Grade level curriculum</td>
<td>Give guidelines for parent involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide rich oral language environment</td>
<td>Assign activities that help parents encourage learning at home</td>
<td>Have an active PTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help with homework</td>
<td>Maintain high expectations</td>
<td>Educate parents on the value of parent involvement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent Involvement Plan needs:
- Consistent definition
- Education of staff
- Education of parents
- Work to overcome barriers
- Consider diversity of population

Implications for Practice
The social worker is able to:
- Be a bridge between the school, staff, parents and students
- Gain an understanding of the beliefs of each group while also understanding the goal of increased parent involvement.
- Look at the school and classroom procedures which can effect parent involvement from an outside perspective.
- Understand and work to eliminate barriers for parents to be involved in their child’s education.
- Incorporate information regarding all of these populations in the school.
- Look at all levels (micro, mezzo and macro) to understand the plan and implement changes as necessary.

Recommendations
- Implement the parent involvement plan during the 2012-13 school year.
- The focus of the first year is to educate staff and parents about parent involvement.
- Evaluate for effectiveness and implementation at the end of the first year.
- Use this information to make changes as needed.
- Incorporate more activities into the next year.
- Continue to gain staff and parent input.
- Look into possible funding for other curriculums available for future years.
- Implement the plan in the other elementary schools in the Faribault School District.

Conclusion
The parent involvement plan for Lincoln Elementary works to incorporate research-based information about parent involvement while also being appropriate for the school and its client population. The plan focuses on educating both Lincoln staff and parents about parent involvement and activities they can do to increase involvement. The plan is also school-wide in order to be most effective for all students and families. The school social worker is taking a lead in the implementation of the plan due to the role the social worker plays in the school. However, the Site team is also involved in the implementation due to the need of staff to buy into the program and implements it with fidelity. This will assist in the plan being most effective. Information given to parents will be translated into Spanish and Somali so parents can access the information. The parent involvement will be evaluated at the beginning of the year to obtain a baseline. There will be another evaluation at the end of the year to compare the differences.

Methodology
A search of the Minnesota State University, Mankato’s journal data bases (ERIC, social service abstracts, and ProQuest) was completed in February 2012. The time frame used in the search was 1985-present. The search was restricted to scholarly journal articles. A search of parent involvement organizations was also completed using the Internet. This search was completed using a Google search using the terms parent involvement organizations. The information gathered includes definitions, programs, information for parents, and information for educators. Some organizations have also completed research regarding parent involvement which was obtained to be used in the project.

Literature Review
The research states that parent involvement is important to a child’s academic success. Increased parent involvement can also be associated with increased achievement, better attendance, increased motivation to achieve, reduced dropout rate, better emotional adjustment and improved social behavior and interactions with others (Wong & Hughes, 2008, p.646). However, the research shows that the impact of parent involvement occurs before 8th grade, thus making it most important in the elementary school years (Altschul, 2011). In order to best understand parent involvement and create a plan, there needs to be a consistent definition. This is important because parent involvement can mean different things to different people. According to the Minnesota Parental Information and Resource Center (2011), the federal government defines parental involvement as the participation of parents in regular, two ways, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. These activities include the parents playing an integral role in assisting with their child’s learning, being encouraged to be involved, and being full partners in their child’s education. The relationship between the school and family are important to increasing parent involvement. There are many different activities the school, staff and parents can do to increase parent involvement. There is also some research that shows involving the community by bringing services to the school can affect parent involvement.

References
References are available from the author upon request.

Adequate Yearly Progress plan which was submitted to the Minnesota State Department of Education in February 2012. Due to the belief of the importance of parent involvement, it is mandated under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 for elementary schools.

Parent involvement by bringing services to the school can affect parent involvement. These activities include the parents playing an integral role in assisting with their child’s education. The relationship between the school and family are important to increasing parent involvement. There are many different activities the school, staff and parents can do to increase parent involvement. There is also some research that shows involving the community by bringing services to the school can affect parent involvement.

Grade Level Guide books
For grades 1-5
Located in student planners
Give guidelines for
Homework/Assignments
Classroom behavior plan
Classroom parties
Birthday Parties
Communication with staff
Grade level curriculum

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