Abstract

Family supports are critical in children’s academic, behavioral and social-emotional development. The Role of Family-School Partnerships in Increasing Science Literacy in Rural Communities (CBC, Grant # R324A100115) - being conducted in rural communities through the National Center for Research on Rural Education at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. The research reported here was supported, in part, by the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, through Contract Numbers # R324A100115 and # R324A100116. The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not represent views of the Institute or the U.S. Department of Education.

Family-School Partnerships Promote Success for Students Needing Additional Supports

Conjoint Behavioral Consultation (CBC) is a family-school partnership model that has a well-established history of research support. CBC is a strengths-based, cross-system problem solving and decision making model involving parents, teachers and other caregiver- or service-providers as partners and share responsibility for promoting positive and constructive outcomes related to children's academic, behavioral and social-emotional development.

Primary Goals of Family-School Partnerships

To improve experiences for children across environments for the purpose of improving student outcomes (e.g., academic achievement, science literacy). To increase a shared commitment between parents and schools for the child's education. To strengthen home-school relationships among the adults in the child's life and improve adult-child relationships. To address concerns for the child across home and school settings. To increase participant and collaboration between settings and draw from the diverse expertise and resources offered in the home and school settings.

Characteristics of the Relationships in Family-School Partnerships

- Student-centered.
- School, teacher, and parent involvement.
- Shared understanding and organizational.
- Shared roles.
- Shared experience, teaching and sharing the responsibility for home-school communication.
- Close collaboration between parents and schools, with clearly specified rights and responsibilities for the child's outcomes.

Strategies for Promoting Family-School Partnerships in Science

Engage Parents as Partners to Expand STEM Learning Opportunities

When families and schools work together to support learning, the increasing knowledge from respondents learning opportunities. The key for educators is helping parents recognize and learn ways to take advantage of educational informal learning opportunities at home and in the community.

Maintain Meaningful Cross-System Communication

Early in the school year, establish as part of the routine an easy method for frequent bi-directional communication between school and home.

Identify and Monitor Specific Goals

Educators and parents jointly determine goals for students at conferences or via other simple means. Monitor progress toward those goals, share progress made across home and school and affectionate, prune and encourage continual accomplishments.

Schedule Celebrations in Science

Schedule family community school nights for in-service teachers with adults and other students who have fun learning in science, including accomplishments that occur across home and school.

Contact & Learn More

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