



Enhancing Learning with Family Involvement

Overview:

Effective parent-teacher communication builds working relationships that can support strong home-school collaboration and improved educational outcomes. Recent changes in school policies and practices--such as the accountability movement, inclusion, and response to intervention--necessitate that all teachers possess effective communication skills for successfully meeting the needs of a diverse student population. In this 4.5 hour course, you will learn the central importance of communication strategies that elicit family members' opinions and promote a sense of equality through shared decision making

Objectives

- Understand the important role parents play in student achievement
- Acquire new ideas and strategies for communicating with and involving families
- Identify situations when special communication strategies are required

Outline

1. Getting Started *(30 min)*
2. UNIT 1: THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY COMMUNICATION
 - THE ABC's of Parent Involvement *(25 min)*
 - EI Video: Communicating with Parents...by Charlotte Danielson *(9 min)*
 - Basic Guidelines for Teacher-Parent Communication *(20 min)*
 - How can parents increase student achievement? *(15 min)*
3. UNIT 2: COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES
 - 9 Techniques for Building Solid Parent-Teacher Relationships *(10 min)*
 - Are you keeping a communication log? *(5 min)*
 - Parent-teacher communication ideas on Pinterest *(20 min)*



4. UNIT 3: SITUATIONS REQUIRING SPECIALIZED COMMUNICATION

- EI Video: Encouraging parents to be part of the RTI process *(7 min)*
- EI Video: Intervention Assistance Team (IAT) Meetings *(16 min)*
- EI Video: Roles and Responsibilities of Students, Parents and Teachers *(5 min)*
- Communication with parents of children with learning disabilities *(5 min)*

5. UNIT 4: IDEAS FOR PROMOTING FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- Family Literacy Night at a School *(2 min)*
- EI Video: Examples from a Kindergarten Family Literacy Night *(20 min)*
- EI Video: Promoting Parent Involvement *(4 min)*
- EI Video: Grandparents' Day *(2 min)*
- EI Video: Developing a Family Fun Night *(5 min)*
- EI Video: Enhancing Learning through Family Involvement *(8 min)*
- Project Based Learning *(8 min)*
- FAST – Families and Schools Together *(10 min)*

6. SUMMARY: Build a plan *(30 min)*



Resources: This self-paced course includes a combination of

- Streaming video and assignments from Educational Impact's (EI) [online academy](#)*
- Non-EI video from other educational websites and video sources
- Reading materials and articles
- Personal reflections and independent writing activities
- Other performance tasks designed to extend professional learning into professional practice.
- Group discussion boards (If this course is taken with colleagues in a professional learning community or other group environment)

Note* [EI Online Academy](#): This course requires you to view specific video segments from the EI Online Academy. However the **FULL** EI Online Academy is also available to you to extend your professional growth. The EI Online Academy offers access to over 400 hours of streaming video and features leading educational experts and hundreds of real classroom examples. It also includes a personal learning plan tool (PLP) and video search engine to help you target areas of specific need or interest. Even though the EI video assignments in this course are limited to content specifically related to family involvement, please feel free to expand your learning through the unlimited use of ALL of the resources in the EI Online Academy.

Assignments: Throughout this course you will work through a series of assignments designed to enhance your understanding of new knowledge and skills. In some cases you will be encouraged to post to your private online notebook for personal reflection. In other cases you will be asked to post to the EI instructor journal or discussion board.

- **Instructor Journal:** Instructor Journal assignment is a 1:1 discussion between you and your instructor/group leader. These postings will be cumulative and serve as an ongoing portfolio of work related to this course. Your instructor/group leader can view your responses and can comment on any of your postings. Your instructor's postings will appear inside of the Instructor Journal. If there are other learners in your group, they are NOT able to view these entries.
- **Discussion Board:** Lastly, there will be times when you are asked to post to a threaded group discussion board. The group discussion board will provide all of the learners in your group or class with opportunities for discussion, collaboration, reflection, and in certain cases peer review within their group or PLC. There will be different discussion boards created for different topics. Be sure to post to the correct discussion board... as assigned by your instructor. Leave an insightful comment and add to the thread to maintain interaction and build collaboration.



- **Reading/Writing/General Assignments:** These assignments can include an attached URL or file. Writing and General assignments also include a text box for you to provide a written response.

Need help? Should you require technical assistance or have difficulty accessing any of the learning resources, please contact Educational Impact directly at 215-370-7666 or email EI Support at lmack@educationalimpact.com