

Strategies for Linking with the School-Age

Below are strategies shared by Best Practice Institute Participants to link after school with the school day

- Go into school day classrooms
- Hire school-day staff
- Build relations with principals, school personnel and district people
- Coordinate professional development opportunities and staff meetings
- Transportation—bus from school to site
- Align with school-age and district calendars
- Monitor academic proficiencies
- Homework contracts and portfolios—share between school, home and afterschool
- Knowledge of Core Standards
- Coordinate with school and PTO events
- Same language on behavior model—follow same rules
- Focus on life skills (21st Century Learning Skills)
- Build relationships with teachers
- Tailor programs to compliment the school
- Share resources with the school
- Collaborate and participate in team meetings with school personnel and families
- Use teachers to tutor after school students
- Hire an academic coordinator/liaison
- On-site coordination with school and teachers
- Utilize district e-mail
- Serve on school committees
- After school students part of student governance meetings
- Collaborate with family events and enrichment activities
- Keep communication open through e-mails, mailboxes, drop boxes, etc.
- Sharing newsletters/activities happening in the program
- Volunteer during school
- Share information about students with teachers
- Directors meet with the principal once a month
- Communicate with classroom teachers to find out what the children are learning
- Afterschool staff work in the schools
- Have staff document the day to periodically share with teachers
- Provide opportunities for the children to share what they did in school
- Program staff attend school events
- Make friends with the secretary and custodian
- Determine areas of need by looking at homework
- Connect with specific teachers after school
- Put a note in a teacher's mailbox if you have a question
- Participate in teacher' meetings (IEP, behaviors, conferencing, PD)
- Use a variety of communications –be knowledgeable of test scores and report cards (parental permission)
- Daytime class observations
- Build parent/school/afterschool connections
- Speak the same language (understand the jargon and anachronisms)
- Familiarize yourself with school websites used and approved
- Afterschool staff available in the building (maintain an office)
- Informal daily communication with principal