

# Strategies to Support Family Engagement and Involvement

*Below are strategies shared by Best Practice Institute Participants to support the engagement of families in the after school program.*

- A guessing jar at the family table
- A collaborative picture
- Family night activities
- Open house/bring a friend
- Earn one free day for child care
- Having accessible times for parents for activities
- Chili Night Out
- Young Author's Club/Café
- Facebook Group
- Grandparent read to kids
- Community carnival run by kids
- Family Game night
- Parent coordinator on staff
- Lunch with kids
- Annual events
- Community partnerships
- Career/skill sharing
- Learning Center Nights
- Talking to parents at pickup
- Communication logs
- Family nights/events where students create content rather than consuming content
- Newsletters
- Notes and phone calls/texting to families you don't see
- Student projects that involve families
- Volunteering—sharing skills, resources, careers
- Parent education classes (provide child care)
- Donations/wish lists
- Parent surveys and student surveys
- Parent/staff conferences
- Parent comment cards
- Always talk to parents at sign in or out
- Always positive feedback of child to parent
- Family movie night
- Make/Take or "Mad Science Nite
- Cultural potlucks
- Bake sales
- Harvest Fest dance
- Art show/display
- Fall festival/fair
- Documenting activities
- Field Trip info
- Picture slice show
- Parent board/committee
- Family bulletin board
- Mailbox
- Parent-teacher group meeting
- Open door policy
- Joint field trip
- Math and/or literacy fall fest
- Financial literacy
- Community feast
- Love and Logic training
- Potlucks with theme
- Cultural fair
- Family open gym
- Zumba/fitness class
- Donuts for Dad/Muffins for Mom events
- Ice Cream social
- Homework note
- Assigned door person
- Graduation ceremonies
- Science Fair Night
- Parent orientation
- ESL/GED classes
- Summer exhibition
- Fundraisers
- e-mail communications

- Christmas program (plays, ballet, children's theater)
- Chaperones
- End of year events
- Posting photos on Facebook, website or bulletin board
- Family night dinners
- Food/snacks for parents at pickup
- Provide busing for activities for children and families
- Social media for added communication
- Child performances
- Pancake breakfast
- School Supply drive
- Relationship building –know names of family members
- Family events (i.e. roller skating)
- Partnering with PTA
- Y memberships
- Birthday party for site
- Food, food, food—brings everyone together
- Partnering with community to provide learning opportunities (Associated Bank—budgeting, savings etc. Job fairs