

Learning as a Family Affair

Children's expectations of their abilities begin at home. Unfortunately, parents work long hours, leaving little time and energy to oversee their children's schooling and socialization. Most teachers, however, know the path to an enriching and successful learning experience - get parents involved! Active parents follow the development of their children, reinforce the expectations of the schools, and monitor child behavior and participation. In fact, parents' involvement in education is an integral part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 which advocates that every school encourage parental involvement and participation to promote social, emotional, and academic growth of children.

Below is a list of benefits students and their families can anticipate when working together.

- It affords parents, relatives, even friends, an insight as to what Emotional Literacy is and its importance in everyone's life.
- Parents become more familiar with what their children are learning and how they are functioning emotionally.
- Discussions of personal feelings and experiences can insure some of life's greatest gifts: bonding, trusting, and healthy attitudes.
- It creates an atmosphere and respect for interdependence. Everyone is involved in the learning process - there are no secrets.
- Family members and students assume the role of both student and teacher, which is an ideal environment.
- Family members can continue to achieve higher levels of intellectual, emotional and social skills.
- The student gains a sense of ownership and being in control of the learning experience.
- Family members learn more about each other, which promotes family compatibility as well as personal growth.
- Families that interact successfully prepare children to integrate successfully and compatibly into mainstream society.