

RESEARCH ON FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- The most effective forms of family involvement are those that engage **parents in working directly with children on learning activities in the home.** Programs that involve parents in reading with their children, supporting their work on homework assignments, or tutoring them using materials and instructions provided by teachers show particularly impressive results.
- Family involvement is most effective when it is **comprehensive, long-lasting, and well-planned.**
- Family involvement should be **developmental and preventive, promoting strengths** rather than remedial intervention.
- **School practices** to encourage parents to participate in their children's education are **more important than family characteristics**, such as the level of a parent's education or their socioeconomic or marital status.
- Children from **low-income and minority families benefit most** when parents are involved in schools.
- Parents do **not have to be well-educated** to make a difference.
- When parents help their children with schoolwork, **the effects of poverty and the parents' lack of a formal education are reduced.**
- The **earlier family involvement begins** in a child's educational process, **the more powerful the effects will be.** Involving parents when children are young has beneficial effects that persist throughout the child's academic career.
- Family involvement **works for older children too**, even if they have not been involved previously.
- Most parents prefer **informal, personal** attention in parent/teacher relationships.
- Parents **want and need direction** to participate with maximum effectiveness.