Research demonstrates and suggests that family involvement in education matters for student success.

Family engagement improves -

- School readiness;
- Student achievement;
- Social skills;
- School attendance;
- Academic performance and;
- Attitudes about school.

A seamless system of strategies will:

- Results in a shared responsibility in supporting family engagement;
- Provides guidance that reflects each person’s role and responsibility in promoting productive home-school communication;
- Provides strategies so that parents and educators enter into conversations/conferences with shared expectations and an increased ability to work together to improve children’s educational outcomes.

Family engagement does not happen in a vacuum;

It takes the committed actions of both families and providers/teachers working together;

Through shared responsibility programs and teachers reach out to and engage families in meaningful ways;

Through shared responsibility families do their part to actively support their children’s learning and developing; Home-School communication predicts positive outcomes for children and schools;

Parent-teacher conferences is an opportunity for parents to learn from teachers and teachers to learn from parents;

Teacher efforts to better understand the aspirations and perceptions of families can help them feel respected and build trust.

Tips for Productive and Effective Engagement

- For Parents
  - YOU are the child’s first and most important teacher;
  - YOU and your child’s school have something in common – both want the child to learn and do well;
• YOU have valuable information about your child’s
• Talents,
• Interests,
• Learning styles,
• Non-school learning opportunities, and
• Strengths and needs
• YOU may learn something new about how your child learns;
• Family – Teacher conferences are a great way to start talking.

○ For Teachers – Before The Conference
  o Send invitations
  o Provide information about time, purpose and alternative scheduling options
  o Review the child’s progress
  o Prepare thoughts and material
  o Send reminders
  o Create a welcoming environment

○ For Teachers – During The Conference
  o Discuss progress and growth
  o Use examples
  o Ask questions and listen actively
  o Share ideas for supporting learning
  o Seek solutions collaboratively
  o Make a “Next Steps” plan
  o Establish lines of communication

○ For Teachers – After The Conference
  o Follow up with families
  o Communicate regularly
  o Connect in-class activities

For more information on this training or other Kaplan Professional Development Contact Robyn Clark Professional Development Administrator 1-800-334-2014 ext. 3252 rclark@kaplanco.com