

INSPIRING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

by:

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Studies show that the involvement of the parents has a significant effect and role on a child's growth and development in school. Taking part in a child's activity in school can boost different aspects such as motivation, confidence, and socialization. Making ways to be part of children's development in the school can also lead to better academic outputs and grades. But as a teacher, making parents involved and engaged is not always that easy. It takes a lot of effort for us to motivate the parents to be part of their child's development, we even need to craft creative ways to connect with them and make them feel significant as our partners in the child's education.

In Sta. Rosa Elementary School, teachers have various ways to build connections between the parents. One of our best practices is to involve parents in such activities and make sure that they feel welcome and belong to the school community; open and consistent communication between the parents is the key to better involvement and engagement. We tend to update them through the use of different ways and platforms such as through PTA meetings, electronic chats, or even simple messages, these help parents keep in touch and updated about their child's performance and assess what the needs of the development of their child that can facilitate at home.

The school plays a big part in making parents feel that they are very much welcome. Making them feel that they belong makes them comfortable to approach, suggest things for improvement, and more likely to be engaged. Schools can organize and conduct various events and programs that can promote the belongingness of the family in the school community; it can be a family day, workshops, and symposiums that can

bring them to contribute to the learning process. These activities will not only provide an opportunity to build a strong relationship between the teachers and parents, but it is also more likely to show parents ownership over their child's education.

In addition, schools must also provide tools to the parents for them to be fully equipped to support their child's learning. Many parents want to help and support their children when it comes to learning, but they are not sure how it is going to work. Providing them an opportunity to be part of the various lectures and seminar-workshop on things like supporting their child when it comes to homework and projects, follow-up reading at home, or how they make strong bonds with their children can make a big difference. Teaching parents using different online and educational applications that are aligned with the curriculum can also give them tips to introduce learning at home.

By this, as a teacher, we should also consider and recognize the efforts of our parents in helping us promote learning. This will serve as a gateway to keep them motivated and engaged in the teaching-learning process. We can recognize these efforts through PTA meetings by giving them a short thank you message or even awarding them certificates, and this can be a big appreciation for them. When parents feel valued, they are more likely to stay engaged. Always remember that we want them to know that their efforts and involvement have a huge impact not only on their children but also on the whole school community.

Lastly, getting parents involve in the teaching learning process is simple as making them feel belong, connected, valued, and appreciated. Parents will feel empowered if we have serve them proper communication, and a welcoming school-community. At the end of the they, children are the winners when teachers and parents are always working harmoniously together.

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