

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION: HOW IT AFFECTS ELEMENTARY PUPILS' SUCCESS

by:

Adonis Angel M. Dimalanta
Teacher I, Bangal Elementary School

Parental involvement plays a crucial role in a child's academic journey, especially in the formative years of elementary education. Research consistently shows that children whose parents are actively engaged in their schooling tend to perform better academically, exhibit stronger social skills, and develop a positive attitude toward learning. However, the extent and nature of parental involvement can vary widely, influencing student outcomes in different ways. This article explores the significance of parental involvement in elementary education, the challenges parents and educators face, and practical strategies to enhance collaboration for student success.

Studies indicate that children with involved parents achieve higher grades and test scores. When parents participate in their child's learning process by helping with homework, attending parent-teacher conferences, or reading together, students gain a deeper understanding of the material. Children with engaged parents often exhibit better social skills and higher self-esteem. They feel supported, which helps reduce anxiety and stress related to school. This emotional stability enables them to develop strong relationships with teachers and peers, fostering a more positive school experience. Students with involved parents are less likely to miss school and more likely to participate in extracurricular activities. Regular attendance and active participation contribute to overall academic and personal growth. When parents show an interest in their child's education, it instills a love for learning. Children feel encouraged to set goals, stay curious, and put effort into their studies, knowing that their achievements matter to their families.

Many parents have demanding work schedules that limit their ability to attend school meetings, assist with homework, or volunteer in school activities. Some parents may feel unqualified to help their children academically, especially if they have limited education themselves or if the curriculum has changed significantly since their own schooling. Parents from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds may face challenges in communicating with teachers or understanding school policies and expectations. Families from low-income backgrounds may lack access to learning materials, technology, or a quiet space for their children to study at home. Some parents may have had negative experiences in their own education, leading to reluctance or discomfort in engaging with their child's school.

To bridge the gap between home and school, educators and parents can adopt strategies that foster meaningful engagement. Schools should encourage open communication, providing multilingual resources and culturally inclusive practices to make all parents feel valued and heard. Schools can offer multiple ways for parents to participate, such as virtual meetings, recorded workshops, or flexible volunteer schedules that accommodate working parents. Workshops and training sessions can help parents develop strategies to support their children's learning at home, regardless of their own educational background.

Parents can foster literacy by reading to their children daily, discussing stories, and encouraging a love for books. Schools can collaborate with community organizations to provide access to books, internet resources, and after-school tutoring for families in need. Teachers should maintain regular contact with parents through newsletters, emails, and parent-teacher conferences to keep them informed about their child's progress and ways to support their learning. Schools can use apps, online platforms, and digital tools to keep parents involved in their child's education, providing updates, assignments, and direct communication with teachers.

Teachers play a significant role in fostering parental engagement. By building trust, showing appreciation for parental efforts, and recognizing the challenges families face, educators can create a supportive partnership. Training teachers in effective communication strategies and cultural competency can further enhance these relationships, ensuring that every child receives the support they need to succeed.

Parental involvement is a key determinant of elementary pupils' success, influencing academic performance, social development, and overall school experience. While challenges exist, schools and parents can work together to overcome these barriers through open communication, flexible engagement strategies, and the use of technology. By strengthening the connection between home and school, we can create a supportive learning environment that empowers students to achieve their fullest potential. Encouraging parents to take an active role in their child's education not only benefits the students but also fosters a stronger, more connected school community.

References:

Parental Involvement in your Child's Education - <https://www.aecf.org/blog/parental-involvement-is-key-to-student-success-research-shows>

Benefits and Strategies in Education and Schools - <https://www.positiveaction.net/blog/parental-involvement-education-schools>