

THE IMPACT OF PARENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OF A LEARNER

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Parental involvement plays a pivotal role in the educational development of a child. A 2019 review conducted by the American Psychological Association, which analyzed 448 independent studies on parental involvement, found that students whose parents are actively engaged in their education tend to exhibit higher academic achievement, increased school engagement, and greater motivation.

As early as the primary grades, noticeable differences in learners' academic performance often emerge. Some students display advanced capabilities, while others struggle to meet expected developmental milestones. One significant factor that strongly influences this disparity is the degree of parental involvement in a child's foundational learning journey.

Before a child becomes a learner in the classroom, they are first taught by their parents at home. Parents are, in essence, a child's first teachers, and their actions, decisions, and engagement during these formative years significantly shape their child's future academic path.

To illustrate this, consider two contrasting real-life examples. In one case, a parent noticed her child's early difficulties with speech. In response, she made a personal sacrifice by resigning from her job to devote time to consistently tutor and support her child. Today, that same child performs at the top of their class. Conversely, two other working parents, unable to devote time to tutoring due to job commitments, found their child struggling academically and falling behind peers. These contrasting stories

highlight how proactive parental involvement can lead to significant differences in learning outcomes.

Over the decades, research has consistently emphasized one key success factor that transcends socioeconomic status, student background, and even the type of school a student attends: parental involvement. It remains one of the most reliable predictors of student success.

Furthermore, the strength of the relationship between schools and families has a profound impact. When schools make an effort to build positive partnerships with families—and when families reciprocate—students benefit in multiple ways. Studies have shown that children whose parents remain engaged with their schooling tend to:

Exhibit better attendance and punctuality

Demonstrate positive classroom behavior

Earn higher grades and test scores

Show stronger social skills

Adjust more effectively to the school environment

Parental involvement is not a supplementary aspect of education—it is foundational. The early years of a child’s learning are critical, and the support, presence, and participation of parents during this time have long-lasting effects. As such, both schools and families must work collaboratively to create an environment where every learner is given the tools, support, and encouragement to succeed. When parents and educators partner in nurturing foundational skills, learners are empowered to reach their fullest potential.

References:

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