

Research Question: What interventions are effective in engaging families/parent in supporting learning at home?

Methodology: 83 families from 8 classrooms including Head Start and public pre-k program. (Final retention rate of 93%)

Pre and posttests gathered information from both families and teaching staff. For a 10 week period families were given weekly engagement assignments to be done at home. Families were randomly assigned to one of 3 levels of interventions.

Level 1 interventions were suggestions of activities to be completed at home without special resources.

Level 2 interventions were suggestions with prompts to encourage the activities to be completed.

Level 3 interventions were activities supported with resources to work with. 8 of the 10 level 3 activities were treated as a lending library.

Pretest family responses:

When asked “In what ways are you involved in your child’s education?” parent’s narrative replies were: Working on numbers, counting, shapes, colors, and or puzzles 34 %, Reading to/with my child 31%; Helping with things child needs to learn/Homework help 21%; Work on alphabet 14%; Talk about what child did at school 12%; Visit school/volunteer 10%

When parents were asked “How else would you like to be involved in your child’s education?” they responded: Any way possible/whatever teacher recommends 20%; Volunteer in classroom 13%

Findings:

Posttest Parent Data:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
How many total activities did you do with your child? (out of possible 10)	6.44	7.33	8.24
How many people worked with your child on activities?	2.04	1.93	2.56
How long did you spend doing activities? (minutes)	13.94	17.91	22.58
How many times did you work on the activities?	2.15	2.34	2.72

Teacher posttest Data:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
How involved were parents <i>*based on scale: 1-Not at all; 2-Very little; 3-Neutral; 4-Somewhat interested; 5 Very interested</i>	3.64	4.38	4.62
How involved were students <i>* same scale as above</i>	3.54	4.45	4.58
Effectiveness of activities in engaging families by level <i>Teachers gave those they thought effective a + and – for those they felt ineffective</i>	3.01	5.11	7.03

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