

## Developing High – Quality Family Involvement Programs in Early Childhood Settings Lorenza DiNatale

Tell me , I'll forget .When parents are involved , they have a better understanding of their role as their child's primary educators .Research findings Decades of research have shown that one of the most accurate predictors of achievement in school is not family income or parents ' education level , but the extent to which parents believe they can be key resources in their children's education and become involved at school and in the community ( Henderson & Beris 1994 , Lewis & Henderson 1997 ; One of the most accurate predictors of achievement in school is the extent to which parents believe they can be key resources in their children's education and become involved at school and in the community .Therefore , references to parents should be construed to include any adults who play an important role in a child's development and upbringing The need for strong Partnerships Many preschool and primary teachers understand the vital role parents play and the need for developing strong and effective partnerships with families .When parent involvement is strong , teachers and program administrators are more likely to experience improvement in self – esteem have higher morale , feel more job satisfaction , and hold greater respect for their profession ( Epstein et al . 2002 ) Schools and programs with a high degree of consistent and meaningful parent involvement usually outperform similar programs without family involvement .NAEYC's revised statement on developmentally appropriate practice states that programs should support strong ties between child and family ( Bredekamp & Copple 1997 ) .Head Start is a national , federally funded , community – based program for children from families with low incomes and their parents .In this technological age , we are all realizing how the school , the home , and the community are connected to each other and to the world at large Kibel and Stein – Seroussi ( 1997 ) believe that community can truly exist only when its members acknowledge their importance These words , paraphrased from Confucius , form the motto of the Even Start Program at Cane Run School in Louisville , Kentucky .Head Start grantees are required to develop goals for children in collaboration with families and to involve parents in making decisions about both education and program management .Educators have long understood the primary role of parents in the physical , moral , and emotional development of their young children .Moreover , parents and teachers get to know and learn from each other , which results in children receiving more individual attention and curricula becoming more rich and varied .Parent involvement in education benefits not only children and parents , but also teachers and overall program quality .They provide appropriate environments and interactions that promote learning and help their children develop the skills and values needed to become healthy and successful adults .Two of the main purposes of an early childhood program are to support and strengthen the parent in this role and to provide the foundation for a family's ongoing involvement in their child's education .Such schools tend to have more support from families and more respect in the community ( Cavaneta 1998 , Hatch 1998 ) .More recently , they have also acknowledged the importance of families involvement in the education of their children .the primary teachers and nurturers of their children .But involve me , and I'll understand .Powell 1998 ) .Show me , I may remember .Although I use the word parent in this article , I recognize that family members and other adults also . hold responsibility for raising a child