

**How Parental Involvement Coincides With Student Achievement: How to Get Parents  
Involved?**

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## **Abstract**

Parental involvement is crucial for a child's education, impacting their academic success and overall development. This research examines how parental involvement affects students' learning, social skills, behavior, and long-term success, particularly focusing on elementary school students. By analyzing varying levels of parental involvement, the study aims to identify key factors contributing to student achievement. Understanding the impact of parental involvement is essential for educators, policymakers, and parents. This research provides insights to develop effective strategies for engaging parents in education. By fostering strong partnerships between parents and schools, we can create a more supportive educational environment that benefits all students. Overall, this study aims to deepen our understanding of parental involvement and provide practical recommendations for optimizing its impact. By promoting active parental engagement, we can enhance student outcomes and create a more enriching educational experience.

*Keywords:* parental involvement, academic success, learning, success, educational, student achievement

## Introduction

Parental involvement is a topic I hear teachers talk about every single day, whether I see it on TikTok, social media, podcasts, or physically hearing my host teachers discussing this. I hear teachers talk about how they wish parents would become more involved in their student's learning, so I am researching the why. After hearing and seeing teachers all over America discuss parental involvement in their classrooms or the lack of involvement, I started getting curious as to why teachers are talking so much about this topic. Why is parental involvement important and how does it impact a student's academic success? The issue of parental involvement when it comes to a student's learning has been an ongoing topic for several decades now. The topic of how a parent's involvement impacts a student's learning and academic achievement has been researched since the 1980s.

As a future educator, I thought it was important to understand why and figure out a way to possibly change the answer from why to because of this. As an educator you interact with not only students and faculty every day, but parents as well. Understanding how a parent's involvement impacts a student's achievement and learning can help me create a more positive classroom environment, as well as better relationships with my students and their families. Parental involvement is an important aspect of parent-teacher communication and student learning. "The research overwhelmingly demonstrates that parent involvement in children's learning is positively related to achievement" (Cotton and Wikelund, 2002).

Several times throughout my paper I have mentioned parental involvement. What is parental involvement? "Despite its intuitive meaning, the operational use of parental involvement has not been clear and consistent. Parental involvement has been defined in practice as representing many different parental behaviors and parenting practices, such as parental

aspirations for their children's academic achievement and their conveyance of such aspirations to their children (e.g., Bloom, 1980), parents' communication with children about school (e.g., Christenson et al., 1992; Walberg, 1986), parents' participation in school activities (e.g., Stevenson and Baker, 1987), parents' communication with teachers about their children (e.g., Epstein, 1991), and parental rules imposed at home that are considered to be education-related (e.g., Keith et al., 1993; Keith et al., 1986; Marjoribanks, 1983)" (Fan and Chen, 2001). Parental involvement is how a parent gets involved in a student's school, education, activities, or lives. Parental involvement in education refers to helping with homework, asking what they can do to help their students, attending conferences, reading with their students, or simply asking their student about their day or what they learned at school. "They can become more involved in helping their children improve their schoolwork--providing encouragement, arranging for appropriate study time and space, modeling desired behavior (such as reading for pleasure), monitoring homework, and actively tutoring their children at home" (Cotton and Wikelund, 2002).

There is a lot of controversy about whether or not a parent needs to be involved in a child's education. Some parents say it is the teacher's responsibility to teach their student and mold them into successful learners. In contrast, other parents say a student's education should continue outside of the classroom. Parents believe they shouldn't have to help their children because they are not a licensed teacher, so it is not their job. Parents say, "I work all the time, I can't come to a conference, or I can't help with homework." Parents say, "Things have changed since I was in school, I can't help my student if I don't know how to do it." Another example of things parents have said to teachers about why they can't get involved is "My parents didn't help

me with assignments when I was in school, and I turned out just fine” or “Why should I help with homework when I didn’t even learn any of this when I was in school?”

I specifically want to investigate the impact that a parent can have on their child’s academic achievement. Even with all of the controversy or the “back in my day” stories, I am curious as to how a student can or cannot benefit from their parents getting involved in their education. I want to see how something as simple as a parent reading to their student or helping them with their homework can impact their knowledge level or academic achievement. I want to see just how a parent getting involved with a child’s education can benefit that child long-term. I want to learn about how big of an impact parental involvement can have on a child as a whole.

### **Thesis Question**

Although there is controversy over whether or not a parent has an impact on a child’s education and academic achievement, I am going to research how parental involvement coincides with academic success. I am going to explore the impact that parental involvement has on a student’s academic achievement. From these findings, I will investigate the effects that parental involvement has on a student, their learning, and their achievement.

### **Research Questions**

#### **What is the role of parents in elementary education?**

For this research, I am going to look into what a parent's role is in the classroom setting. I am going to look at the role of a parent specifically in the elementary classroom setting. This is important for me to understand what this role is and how it can coincide with parental involvement.

**What is the impact of parental involvement on students' academic performance and overall well-being?**

This is an important piece of my research because the main aspect of my thesis is how parental involvement can impact students. This piece will help me focus specifically on how parental involvement can impact a student's academic performance. This will help me better understand the overall impact of parental involvement on students.

**How does parental involvement influence the academic success and overall development of elementary school students?**

This is a crucial piece of information for my research because this allows me to focus specifically on the aspect of parental involvement and academic success. This piece will also help me focus specifically on how parental involvement can impact a student's overall development. This question can help better guide my research and can help answer my main thesis question.

**What strategies can be implemented to enhance collaboration between parents and teachers in elementary education?**

I talked in my introduction about things I can do as a classroom teacher to better help all of my students. This research question can not only help me become a better teacher but can also help me learn and implement ways to get parents involved. Learning this information can help aid my research about parental involvement and how it relates to student success.

**How does the level of parental involvement in a child's education correlate with academic performance in elementary school?**

This can help me narrow my research on just how parental involvement can impact academic achievement and performance. The main part of my thesis is how parental involvement coincides with student success. A student's performance in school can relate heavily to their success. Researching this question can help me learn more about how parents can affect their students' performance in school.

**What specific aspects of parental involvement (e.g., homework help, communication with teachers) have the most significant impact on student achievement?**

This research question helps focus on what parental involvement is specifically. Understanding parental involvement and what it means is an important piece of my research. This question allows me to understand how parents can become involved in their child's learning. This also allows me to focus on what part of parental involvement has the biggest impact on student achievement and student success.

### **Summary of Introduction**

The topic of parental involvement is pervasive in educational discourse, often discussed by teachers across various platforms such as social media, podcasts, and in professional settings. As a future educator, I'm intrigued by the emphasis placed on parental involvement and its implications for student success. This interest led me to dive deeper into understanding why parental involvement is important and how it influences a student's academic performance. This inquiry is particularly relevant given the ongoing discussions about parental involvement in education dating back to the 1980s.

Parental involvement encompasses various activities through which parents engage with their child's school, education, and overall well-being. These activities range from assisting with

homework and attending parent-teacher conferences to simply asking their child about their day. Despite its significance, there's controversy surrounding the extent of parental involvement deemed necessary for a child's education. While some argue that education is primarily the responsibility of teachers, others emphasize the importance of parental support outside the classroom. However, research consistently demonstrates a positive correlation between parental involvement and academic achievement, highlighting the profound impact parents can have on their child's learning journey.

In my research, I aim to explore the relationship between parental involvement and academic success, particularly focusing on its impact on elementary school students. By investigating specific aspects of parental involvement such as homework help and communication with teachers, I seek to identify strategies that enhance collaboration between parents and educators. I'm going to examine how varying levels of parental involvement correlate with student performance, ultimately aiming to uncover the most influential factors contributing to student achievement. Through this research, I hope to gain insights that not only inform my practice as an educator but also contribute to the broader understanding of the crucial role parents play in their children's educational development.

### **Main Research**

As you keep reading, these next sections are going to explore how parental involvement impacts a student. Parental involvement impacts a student in several different aspects. This next section is going to help uncover all of the different ways that this can impact a student. Parents play a crucial role in their child's educational development, but just how important of a role is this? I aim to examine how varying levels of parental involvement correlate with student



performance, ultimately aiming to uncover the most influential factors contributing to student achievement.

### **What is the role of parents in elementary education?**

#### **Classroom Setting**

Parents can play many crucial roles by becoming involved in the classroom setting because they play an essential role in their child's education. Parents play a key aspect in the classroom setting by supporting learning at home, communicating with teachers, becoming involved in school activities, advocating for their children, and promoting positive behavior. "Research reports that engaging parents in an active role in the school curriculum can open alternative opportunities for children to succeed in academics" (Machen et al., 2005). When parents become involved in the classroom setting they are able to open a door to provide opportunities for their child's learning, monitor their student's learning, and intervene when they feel like their student is falling behind.

#### **Supporting Learning at Home**

Parents can reinforce what their students have learned at school by helping with homework, reading to them, and encouraging a positive attitude toward learning. Supported learning at home refers to the educational activities, resources, and assistance provided to students outside of the traditional classroom setting. This can include parental involvement, access to educational materials, online resources, tutoring, and guidance from educators. The goal of supported learning at home is to enhance the educational experience of students and help them succeed academically by fostering a positive learning environment outside of school. "The home learning environment (HLE) that children experience affects children's learning outcomes,

and can afford a rich context for improving children's learning, development, and well-being (cf. Niklas 2015). This is especially so if adult caregivers are attuned and engaged in activities, reading frequently to their children, and providing a variety of books in the home (Yu and Daraganova 2015)" (Niklas et al., 2016). "It is widely believed that home-based Parental Involvement is particularly important for children's learning and growth" (Borgonovi & Montt, 2012).

### **Communicating With Teachers**

Parents need to maintain open communication with teachers to stay informed about their child's progress, upcoming events, and any concerns that may arise. Communication between parents and teachers is essential for student success. It involves regular exchanges of information regarding a student's academic progress, behavior, and overall well-being. This communication can take place through various channels such as emails, phone calls, parent-teacher conferences, and digital platforms. By maintaining open and effective communication, parents and teachers can work together to support the student's learning and development.

### **Involvement in School Activities**

Parents can participate in school events, volunteer in the classroom, or join the parent-teacher association to support the school community. Parental involvement in school activities refers to the participation of parents in various school-related events, programs, and initiatives. This involvement can include volunteering in the classroom, attending parent-teacher meetings, supporting school fundraisers, chaperoning field trips, and participating in school governance committees. Parental involvement is crucial for creating a strong partnership between families and schools, which ultimately benefits the academic success and overall well-being of students.

“School-based Parental Involvement refers to all parental activities that require contact with the school, including communicating with teachers, taking part in school activities, and parental volunteering” (Fantuzzo et al., 2000).

### **Advocating for Their Child**

Parents can advocate for their child's needs and work collaboratively with teachers to ensure their child receives the support and resources they require. Parents advocating for their students involves actively speaking up and seeking the best educational opportunities and support for their child. This advocacy can take many forms, such as attending meetings with school staff to address concerns, collaborating on educational plans, requesting accommodations or services, and ensuring that the student's needs are met. By advocating for their child, parents play a crucial role in ensuring that their student receives the necessary resources and support to thrive academically and personally.

### **Promoting Positive Behavior**

By instilling values of respect, responsibility, and cooperation at home, parents can help create a positive classroom environment for all students. Parents promoting positive behavior involves actively encouraging and reinforcing good behavior in their children. This can be achieved through setting clear expectations, providing positive reinforcement, modeling appropriate behavior, and using effective discipline strategies. By promoting positive behavior, parents help their children develop essential social and emotional skills, improve their self-esteem, and create a supportive and nurturing home environment conducive to learning and growth.

## **What is the impact of parental involvement on students' academic performance and overall well-being?**

### **Academic Performance**

Academic performance refers to a student's achievement in various educational areas, such as grades, test scores, class participation, and overall mastery of academic content. It reflects the extent to which a student has met the learning objectives and standards set by their school or educational institution. Academic performance can be influenced by factors such as study habits, motivation, teacher quality, parental support, and external circumstances. Monitoring and improving academic performance are essential for student success and future opportunities. Students whose parents are involved in their education tend to have higher academic achievement, better attendance, and improved behavior in school. Parental support and encouragement can lead to increased motivation, confidence, and a positive attitude toward learning, which can translate into better grades and academic success.

### **Emotional Well-Being**

Emotional well-being refers to the state of one's emotional health and overall mental wellness. It encompasses the ability to manage and express emotions in a healthy way, cope with stress, build positive relationships, and maintain a sense of resilience in the face of challenges. Emotional well-being is essential for overall mental health and can impact various aspects of an individual's life, including their relationships, academic performance, and physical health. Prioritizing emotional well-being involves self-awareness, self-care practices, seeking support when needed, and developing healthy coping strategies. When parents are actively involved in their child's education, students often feel more supported, valued, and secure, leading to higher

self-esteem and emotional well-being. Strong parent-child relationships built through involvement can contribute to better mental health outcomes, resilience, and overall happiness in students.

### **Behavior and Social Skills**

Behavioral and social skills refer to the abilities and competencies that enable individuals to interact effectively with others and navigate social situations. Behavioral skills encompass behaviors such as self-control, impulse management, problem-solving, and decision-making. Social skills include communication, empathy, teamwork, conflict resolution, and building positive relationships. Developing strong behavioral and social skills is essential for success in various aspects of life, including academics, career, and personal relationships. These skills can be learned and improved through practice, guidance, and positive reinforcement. Parental involvement can help reinforce positive behavior, social skills, and values in students, leading to improved relationships with peers and teachers. By being engaged in their child's school life, parents can help develop important life skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. "Parental involvement works indirectly on school outcomes by helping the child build a pro-social, pro-learning self-concept and high educational aspirations, suggesting that parents, regardless of their socio-economic status and professional networks, can influence their children's academic attainment and social and emotional adjustment" (Hartas 2008).

### **Long-Term Success**

Long-term success refers to achieving sustained positive outcomes and accomplishments over an extended period of time. It involves setting and reaching meaningful goals, maintaining consistent progress, and experiencing personal growth and fulfillment. Long-term success is not

limited to a specific area of life but encompasses various aspects such as career achievements, personal relationships, financial stability, and overall well-being. It often involves resilience, perseverance, adaptability, and a continuous commitment to learning and improvement. Research shows that students with involved parents are more likely to graduate high school, pursue higher education, and have better career outcomes in the future. Parental involvement sets a strong foundation for lifelong learning, personal growth, and success in various aspects of life.

### **How does parental involvement influence the academic success and overall development of elementary school students?**

Research says when parents get involved in their child's learning, those students have a higher academic achievement rate. When a parent gets involved in their child's education test scores improve, grades are higher, reading levels are higher, improved behavior in the classroom, better coping skills, comprehension skills, and better adaptation skills. Research shows that parental involvement has a positive impact on not only a student's learning but on a student overall. "Parental educational involvement in primary and secondary school is strongly linked to students' academic success" (Benner et al., 2016).

### **Academic Support**

Academic support refers to the resources, assistance, and interventions provided to students to help them succeed in their academic endeavors. This support can come in various forms, such as tutoring, study groups, access to educational materials, personalized instruction, and academic counseling. Academic support aims to address students' individual learning needs, enhance their understanding of academic content, and improve their academic performance. By providing academic support, educators and schools help students overcome challenges, build

confidence, and achieve their academic goals. Parents who are actively involved in their child's education can provide academic support at home, such as helping with homework, reading together, and reinforcing learning concepts taught in school. This support can lead to improved academic performance, better understanding of topics, and enhanced learning outcomes for elementary students. "Home-based Parental Involvement refers to parent-child interactions that occur at home in relation to children's learning process (e.g., helping children with homework, reading together, talking about school experience, family supervision, and parent-child communication)"(Boonk et al., 2018).

### **Motivation and Engagement**

Motivation and engagement are key factors that influence a student's willingness to learn, participate, and succeed in academic tasks. Motivation refers to the inner drive and desire to achieve goals, while engagement involves active involvement and interest in learning activities. When students are motivated, they are more likely to set goals, persevere through challenges, and take ownership of their learning. Engagement, on the other hand, reflects how invested and focused students are during learning experiences. Both motivation and engagement play a crucial role in academic success, as they contribute to increased effort, persistence, and enjoyment of the learning process. When parents show interest in their child's education by attending school events, communicating with teachers, and discussing school activities, it motivates students to be more engaged in their learning. Positive parental involvement fosters a love for learning, curiosity, and a growth mindset in elementary school students, which are essential for their academic success and development. When parents show interest in their child's education, attend school events, and engage in discussions about schoolwork, it motivates students to be more engaged in their learning, which can positively impact their academic performance. "In addition,

when parents display dampened positive and heightened negative affect in the academic context, they may convey negative feelings about the material and children's ability to master problems, evoking children's negative feelings about themselves" (Pomerantz et al., 2005). When parents are acting negatively about academic tasks, students are less motivated to attempt problems which allows them to feel negatively about themselves.

### **Behavioral and Social Skills**

Behavioral and social skills encompass a range of abilities that enable individuals to interact effectively with others and navigate social situations. Behavioral skills include self-control, impulse management, problem-solving, and decision-making. Social skills involve communication, empathy, teamwork, conflict resolution, and building positive relationships. Developing strong behavioral and social skills is essential for success in various aspects of life, including academics, career, and personal relationships. These skills can be learned and improved through practice, guidance, and positive reinforcement. Parental involvement can positively impact students' behavior and social skills by reinforcing values, discipline, and empathy at home. When parents engage with the school community, students learn important social skills, teamwork, and cooperation, which are crucial for their overall development and success in elementary school. "Self-Determination Theory views parent positive versus negative affect toward children as important given that it can contribute to the fulfillment of the need for relatedness, defined as the need to feel connected, valued, and supported" (Ryan & Deci, 2017).

### **Communication and Collaboration**

Communication and collaboration are essential skills that enable individuals to work effectively with others towards a common goal. Communication involves the exchange of



information, ideas, and feedback through verbal, nonverbal, and written means. Effective communication includes active listening, clarity in expressing thoughts, and understanding others' perspectives. Collaboration, on the other hand, is the act of working together with others to achieve a shared objective. It requires teamwork, cooperation, and the ability to contribute one's strengths to a group effort. Developing strong communication and collaboration skills is crucial for success in various settings, including school, work, and personal relationships. Effective communication between parents, teachers, and students creates a supportive learning environment that promotes academic success and well-being. Collaborative efforts between parents and educators enhance the educational experience of elementary school students, leading to improved outcomes both academically and socially.

### **What strategies can be implemented to enhance collaboration between parents and teachers in elementary education?**

#### **Open Communication Channels**

Open communication channels refer to the pathways through which information, feedback, and ideas can flow freely and transparently between individuals or groups. In an educational context, open communication channels facilitate effective communication between educators, students, parents, and other stakeholders. This open exchange of information can take place through various means such as in-person meetings, emails, phone calls, digital platforms, newsletters, and social media. By maintaining open communication channels, stakeholders can share important updates, address concerns, collaborate on solutions, and build positive relationships within the educational community. Establish regular communication channels between parents and teachers, such as emails, newsletters, phone calls, or a communication app, to keep each other informed about student progress, upcoming events, and concerns.

## **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled meetings between parents and teachers to discuss a student's academic progress, behavior, and overall well-being. These conferences provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to share information, set goals, address concerns, and collaborate on strategies to support the student's learning and development. Parent-teacher conferences typically involve reviewing the student's performance, discussing strengths and areas for improvement, setting academic goals, and establishing lines of communication for ongoing support. These meetings play a crucial role in fostering a positive partnership between home and school to enhance the student's educational experience. Schedule regular parent-teacher conferences to discuss the student's academic performance, social development, and set goals collaboratively. Encourage parents to share their insights and concerns during these meetings.

## **Family Engagement Events**

Family engagement events are activities or programs designed to involve families in the educational experience of their children and strengthen the connection between home and school. These events provide opportunities for parents, caregivers, and other family members to participate in school-related activities, workshops, and initiatives. Family engagement events can include back-to-school nights, parent workshops, family literacy nights, multicultural celebrations, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) nights. By engaging families in these events, schools promote collaboration, communication, and shared decision-making between educators and families to support student success and well-being. Organize family engagement events, such as workshops, family nights, or school fairs, to involve parents in their child's education and create a sense of community within the school.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Classroom volunteer opportunities refer to roles and activities that individuals, such as parents, community members, or retired educators, can undertake to support teachers and students in the classroom. These opportunities may include assisting with classroom activities, supervising students during projects or field trips, helping with classroom organization, preparing materials, reading to students, or providing one-on-one support to students who need extra help. Classroom volunteers play a vital role in enhancing the educational experience of students, easing the workload of teachers, and fostering a sense of community involvement within the school. Provide opportunities for parents to volunteer in the classroom, assist with school activities, or join parent committees to actively participate in their child's educational experience.

## **Home-School Collaboration**

Home-school collaboration refers to the partnership and cooperation between families and schools to support the academic success and well-being of students. This collaboration involves open communication, shared decision-making, and mutual respect between educators, parents, and caregivers. Home-school collaboration can take various forms, such as parent-teacher conferences, family engagement events, volunteering opportunities, homework support, and regular updates on student progress. By working together, schools and families can create a supportive and enriching educational environment that promotes student achievement, positive behavior, and overall success. Encourage parents to support learning at home by providing resources, tips for homework help, and suggestions for fostering a love for reading and learning outside of school. “ Active home-based parental involvement can improve their academic

performance, which also highlights the importance of home-school cooperation” ( Ma et al., 2022).

### **Parent Education Workshops**

Parent education workshops are sessions or programs designed to provide parents and caregivers with valuable information, resources, and strategies to support their children's learning and development. These workshops cover a wide range of topics such as effective parenting techniques, understanding child development, supporting academic success, promoting positive behavior, and fostering healthy communication at home. Parent education workshops aim to empower parents with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the challenges of parenting, strengthen the home-school partnership, and create a supportive environment for their children to thrive academically and socially. Offer workshops or seminars for parents on topics such as understanding the curriculum, effective study habits, supporting social-emotional development, and navigating the education system.

### **Celebrate Student Achievements**

Student achievements refer to the accomplishments, successes, and milestones reached by students in various areas of their academic, extracurricular, and personal endeavors. These achievements can include academic honors, awards, certificates, high test scores, exemplary projects, leadership roles, artistic performances, athletic victories, community service contributions, and personal growth milestones. Recognizing and celebrating student achievements are essential for boosting self-esteem, motivation, and a sense of accomplishment. Student achievements reflect the hard work, dedication, and talents of students and serve as a source of pride for both the individuals and the school community. Recognize and celebrate

student achievements through awards ceremonies, newsletters, or parent-teacher-student conferences to acknowledge the joint efforts of parents and teachers in supporting students.

### **How does the level of parental involvement in a child's education correlate with academic performance in elementary school?**

#### **Communication and Support**

Communication and support in the elementary school setting involve establishing effective channels for information exchange and helping ensure the academic success and well-being of students. This includes clear and open communication between teachers, parents, administrators, and students to share progress updates, address concerns, and collaborate on strategies for student growth. Support mechanisms may include individualized instruction, counseling services, access to resources for academic and social-emotional development, and fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment. Effective communication and support systems in elementary schools help create a strong foundation for student success and overall school community engagement. Effective communication between parents and teachers, regular monitoring of academic progress, and a supportive home environment can create a conducive atmosphere for learning, leading to better academic outcomes for elementary school students.

#### **Consistent Involvement**

Consistent involvement refers to the ongoing and regular participation or engagement in a particular activity, project, or relationship over time. It implies a steady and reliable presence or contribution without frequent interruptions or fluctuations. Research suggests that consistent parental involvement throughout a child's elementary school years is associated with higher academic achievement, improved attendance, and enhanced learning outcomes. “Work with

parents can be enriched with the complementarity of involvement, affection, and communication, while the adolescent participation can be focused on healthy development in terms of volitional, self-regulatory, and responsible decision-making” (Aguirre-Dávila et al., 2023).

### **Home-School Partnership**

A home-school partnership refers to the collaborative relationship between families and educational institutions to support students' academic progress and holistic development. This partnership involves open communication, mutual respect, and shared responsibility between parents, caregivers, teachers, and school staff. Through a home-school partnership, families are actively engaged in their children's education, participating in school activities, supporting learning at home, and working together with educators to address students' needs and goals. This collaborative approach fosters a supportive learning environment, enhances student achievement, and strengthens the connection between home and school for the benefit of the students. A strong partnership between parents and teachers, where both parties work collaboratively to support the child's educational journey, can lead to improved academic performance, as the child receives consistent support both at home and in school. “When we relate to a child's family in a positive, productive manner, the situation is always more beneficial for the child. As professionals we should continually strive to develop positive home-school relationships” (Montgomery 2005). This relates to the teacher side of how a positive home-school collaboration is beneficial for a student. If parents are also involved in this positive relationship then the student will be set up for success. This will also make a home-school partnership not only run smoothly but in a way that is the most beneficial for the students learning.

**What specific aspects of parental involvement (e.g., homework help, communication with teachers) have the most significant impact on student achievement?**

## **Homework Help**

Homework help refers to the assistance and resources provided to students to support them in completing their assigned academic tasks outside of the classroom. This support can come in various forms, such as guidance from teachers, access to tutoring services, online educational platforms, study groups, educational materials, and parental supervision. Homework help aims to reinforce learning, clarify concepts, improve study skills, and promote independent learning habits. By offering homework help, educators and parents can help students overcome challenges, deepen their understanding of academic content, and achieve academic success. Providing support and guidance with homework assignments can greatly benefit student achievement. Parents who assist their children with homework help reinforce learning concepts and show the importance of education.

## **Communication With Teachers**

Parents can communicate with their child's teacher in many different ways. They can communicate via email, phone calls, conferences, class dojo, and several other apps that allow for communication. Maintaining open and effective communication with teachers allows parents to stay informed about their child's progress, address any concerns early on, and work collaboratively with educators to support the student's academic growth.

## **Reading at Home**

Reading at home involves the practice of reading books, articles, or other written materials outside of formal educational settings. Educators and parents often encourage this activity to promote literacy, language development, and a love for reading. Reading at home can include reading independently, reading aloud with family members, discussing stories, and

exploring various genres and topics. “The importance of family engagement with literacy begins early, and a study on repeated readings and verbal interactions during reading with preschool students and their families showed positive impacts that persisted into the next year” (Schaughency et al., 2023). By engaging in reading at home, students can enhance their vocabulary, comprehension skills, critical thinking abilities, and overall academic performance. It also fosters a lifelong habit of reading for pleasure and learning. Encouraging and engaging in reading activities at home can improve literacy skills, vocabulary, and comprehension, leading to enhanced academic performance in various subjects. “Parent involvement with at-home reading activities had a positive impact on reading achievement, language comprehension, and expressive language skills, as well as students’ interest in reading, attitudes toward reading, and level of attention in the classroom” ( Elish-Piper 2024).

### **Setting High Expectations**

Setting high expectations involves establishing ambitious goals, standards, and aspirations for students' academic achievement and personal growth. Educators who set high expectations believe in students' potential to succeed and challenge them to strive for excellence. This approach encourages students to push themselves beyond their comfort zones, work diligently towards their goals, and demonstrate their full potential. By setting high expectations, educators create a culture of excellence, foster a growth mindset, and inspire students to reach new heights of success. Parents who set high expectations for their children, encourage goal setting, and emphasize the value of education are more likely to see positive results in student achievement. “Meta-analyses and longitudinal studies highlight the benefits of parents engaging children in discussions about school, encouraging high aspirations, and helping to ensure



children have the best academic experiences possible” (Grolnick, W. S., & Pomerantz, E. M. 2022).

### **Involvement in School Activities**

Involvement in schools refers to actively participating, engaging, and contributing to the school community to support student learning and well-being. This involvement can take various forms, including volunteering in classrooms, attending school events, joining parent-teacher associations, participating in school committees, supporting extracurricular activities, and collaborating with educators to enhance the educational experience. Being involved in schools allows parents, caregivers, and community members to play a role in shaping the school environment, building positive relationships, and fostering a sense of community and support for students and educators alike. Attending school events, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in parent-teacher associations can create a supportive school environment that fosters student success. “Parental support is instrumental to all aspects of youth’s activity participation starting with enrollment decisions and continuing with fostering motivation and participation over time. Parents can support adolescents’ activities in a variety of ways, such as providing instrumental support (e.g., buying equipment), giving verbal encouragement, and keeping in contact with the activity leader or volunteering” (Camacho-Thompson and Simpkins 2022).

### **Positive Reinforcement**

Positive reinforcement is a strategy used to encourage and promote desired behaviors by providing rewards or incentives following the display of the desired behavior. This approach aims to increase the likelihood of the behavior being repeated in the future. Positive

reinforcement can take the form of verbal praise, tokens, privileges, or other rewards that are meaningful to the individual. By using positive reinforcement effectively, educators can motivate students, build self-esteem, and create a positive learning environment based on encouragement and recognition of effort and achievement. Providing positive reinforcement, praise, and encouragement for academic achievements can boost a child's confidence, motivation, and overall academic performance. Parents who are actively involved in their child's education by providing academic support, monitoring homework, and encouraging a positive attitude towards learning often see improvements in their child's academic performance.

### **Creating a Learning-Friendly Environment**

A learning-friendly environment is a setting that is designed to support and enhance the learning experience of students. It encompasses physical, emotional, and social aspects that contribute to creating a positive and conducive space for learning. In a learning-friendly environment, factors such as classroom layout, resources, lighting, temperature, and comfort are optimized to promote engagement, focus, and collaboration among students. Additionally, a supportive and inclusive atmosphere, positive relationships, respect, and encouragement from teachers and peers all contribute to fostering a learning-friendly environment. Such an environment nurtures curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and overall academic success. Establishing a dedicated study space at home, implementing routines for homework and study time, and demonstrating a positive attitude toward learning can contribute to student success. In addition, when parents display dampened positive and heightened negative affect in the academic context, they may convey negative feelings about the material and children's ability to master problems, evoking children's negative feelings about themselves (Pomerantz et al., 2005).

## Conclusion

Parental involvement is an active piece of not only a home-school collaboration but a student's overall success. Parents play a larger role in their child's academics than they know. Parents can play a significant role in their children's education by providing encouragement, creating suitable study environments, modeling desired behaviors like reading, monitoring homework, and actively tutoring at home. Parental involvement encapsulates how parents engage with their child's education, including assisting with homework, inquiring about how to support their child, attending conferences, reading with their child, or simply discussing their day or schoolwork. It encompasses a range of parental behaviors and practices, such as aspirations for their children's academic success, communication with children about school, participation in school activities, communication with teachers, and education-related rules at home

Parental involvement is a topic that pervades discussions among educators, whether in casual conversations, social media, or formal research. Teachers often express a desire for greater parental engagement in their student's learning, prompting me to delve into the reasons behind this emphasis. Observing teachers across the country discuss parental involvement—or its absence—has fueled my curiosity about the significance of this issue. Why is parental involvement important, and how does it influence a student's academic success? The issue of parental involvement in education has been a longstanding concern, with research dating back to the 1980s examining how a parent's involvement affects a student's learning and achievement.

I researched the overall question I had when I first started my research, Why is parental involvement so important, and just how much it can impact a student? How can I get parental involvement in my future classroom? What is parental involvement and what does it look like?

These were the initial questions I had researched before creating my research questions. I used my research questions as a way to further educate and research this topic.

### **Summary of Findings**

During my research, I investigated all of my research questions by reading the articles cited below. All of my questions held up and none of them had failed. I had six different questions that I researched throughout my thesis. What is the role of parents in elementary education? What is the impact of parental involvement on students' academic performance and overall well-being? How does parental involvement influence the academic success and overall development of elementary school students? What strategies can be implemented to enhance collaboration between parents and teachers in elementary education? How does the level of parental involvement in a child's education correlate with academic performance in elementary school? What specific aspects of parental involvement (e.g., homework help, communication with teachers) have the most significant impact on student achievement?

I discovered that parents could play a key role in a student's long-term success, positive behavior in the classroom, high social skills, increased motivation, and an increased emotional well-being. Parents become involved in the classroom through volunteering, communicating openly with teachers, attending parent-teacher conferences, having a home-school collaboration, and advocating for their students.

Parents can play a crucial role in their child's academic success in many different ways. Parents can help their student reach this academic success through homework help, providing academic support, reading with their child, creating a positive learning environment, supporting learning at home, setting high expectations for their student, celebrating their student's

achievements, and using positive reinforcement to help their child learn from their mistakes. All of these things together can create the best overall outcome for a student.

### **Closing Section**

My findings have taught me the overall importance of a parent getting involved in their child's learning. What I learned about the impact of parental involvement makes me want to work even harder when I get my own classroom to get parents involved. I also learned how important a teacher-parent relationship is and I will work hard to achieve that relationship with parents. When a home-school collaboration is used between parents and teacher a student is set up the best they can be for overall success in school and life. Parents and teachers are both responsible for this, so it is important to have both the parent and teacher working together to achieve this. Overall, parental involvement is very vital to a student's overall success and can impact a student's learning, social skills, behavior skills, and long-term success.

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