

Resource Sheet: Involving Parents in Projects.

“Parents (can be) like shareholders in a company without the opportunity to attend the shareholders meeting”

Five principles to apply to Parent involvement.

1. Involving parents is most effective when it is comprehensive, well planned and long lasting.
2. Parent involvement should develop over time as an integral part of the project rather than as a token or remedial strategy.
3. The benefit of parental involvement in the community is continuous regardless of the age of children, though the issues may vary between early childhood, primary school, high school and beyond.
4. Parents do not have to have high levels of education to be involved.
5. All children benefit greatly when parents are involved in their school or community.

Barriers to involvement.

Time and opportunity

Poor communication between school and home

Fear of conflict and or/intimidation

Superficial, inauthentic, tokenistic involvement

Personal circumstances of parents

Lack of perceived value in parental contributions

Mistrust

Past negative experiences.

Defensiveness on part of both professional and parents

Belief (by either or both professionals and parents)
That “professionals know best”

Resources:

Note a search of either the aifs library catalogue or web based that includes terms parents and Community comes up with very few resources .A couple we found are:
Extending the learning community: Involving parents and families in schools (Website)

Building community: the shared Action Experience Linda Beilharz.Solutions press 2002 An Imprint of St Lukes

