

## Celebrating Family Engagement

Nationally, Parent Involvement Day will be celebrated on November 17, 2011. In Arizona, Governor Brewer has declared November 2011, Family Engagement Month.

Parent involvement comes in many shapes and sizes. You are involved when you send your child to school, when you ask your child to tell you about their day, and when you convey the importance of education to your child. It is often these simple acts that have the most impact. During this month, celebrate your own level of involvement in your child's education and challenge yourself to try something new to support your child's learning. To help you celebrate, we have prepared a list of things that you can do at your child's school to celebrate family engagement. Remember, these activities can be done anytime during the year, not just during Family Engagement Month.

Here are some simple things that you can try:

1. Take time everyday to ask open-ended questions about what your child is learning in school. For more detail, ask your child to tell you five things they remember about the day or a specific lesson. To make it even more exciting, have your child create a "Top 5" list every day.
2. Join your school's parent or family/teacher organization.
3. Reinforce school expectations at home.
4. Read all correspondence from the school and your child's teacher.
5. Develop connections with other families within your school community.
6. Offer to share professional, cultural or community experiences with your child's class.
7. Assist school staff and educators in creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for families.
8. Develop a consistent and daily routine and time for studying and homework.
9. Familiarize yourself with school and district policies
10. Visit the school's web page often to stay up-to-date.
11. Establish a "Welcome Wagon" or parent mentors to make new families feel a part of the school community.
12. Provide "Fact Cards" for parents with school name, address, phone number, name of principal, school secretary, school nurse, and PTA president.
13. Keep schools open longer hours and on the weekends. Schools should become the heart of the neighborhood.
14. Hold a Parent University at your school.
15. Have a place in the building, like a Parent Resource Center, that parents can call their own.

To promote the month, include this information in an upcoming newsletter, on your marquee, on your website and through social media.

**We want to hear from you!** Please let us know how you are celebrating Family Engagement Month at your school. We will share your information with others around the state through our website and social media. Please send your celebrations to [mail@azpirc.com](mailto:mail@azpirc.com).