

# One Page Resource: Family Involvement Ideas

## *How to get the families involved....*

*Play builds the kind of free-and-easy, do-it-yourself character that our future needs. We must become more self-conscious and more explicit in our praise and reinforcement as children use unstructured play materials:*

*"...You use your own ideas..."*

*"...You did it your way..."*

*..."You thought it all out yourself."*

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Families are a key factor in a preschool setting. The benefits are endless if you can create an environment in which families feel they are part of their children's education.

In creating that bond with parents you are forming a relationship that will allow parents to provide you with vital information in regards to their child, their preferences, dislikes and abilities.

In the same way, as teachers, you are able to assure parents that their children are well taken care of and loved while helping them to understand the age appropriate expectations that are within your classroom.

***So, how do you get families involved...get creative!***

## *What if they don't have time to come into the classroom?*

There are some families that are unable to actually come into the classroom to volunteer their time but they still want to help the class community. Here are a few ideas to encourage these families to take part in their child's education:

Many parents want to come into the classroom and be hands-on with the children. In this case here are a few ideas to offer parents if they would like to volunteer their time in the classroom:

- Spend 5 minutes in the classroom everyday
- Rake the sand/wood chips on the playground
- Attend parent night/parent teacher conferences
- Teach the children a new song
- Clean the fish tank
- Bring a special snack to share with the class
- Share a family tradition
- Come play a musical instrument with the children
- Come in and help in the art area with open-ended materials



- Mend/sew ripped or torn dress up clothes
- Donate collage materials (buttons, magazines, etc.)
- Type labels for learning areas
- Make homemade blocks
- Bring in family pictures
- Cut out flannel board story characters

