



## The elements of best practice in school-parent partnerships

- Tap into the interests of parents.
- Break down the teacher/non-teacher barrier by allowing for activities that are not directly education-related.
- Use personal contact. It is the most effective form of communication.
- Communicate, communicate, communicate.
- Be a venue for , and agent of, parental self-growth.
- Ask for, and value, the opinion of parents outside the formal school structure.
- Create an environment that encourages parental autonomy.
- Emphasise the connection with the child's education.
- Go out of your way to make parents feel welcome and valued.
- Build bridges across cultural and language divides.
- Be sensitive to parents' sensibilities.
- Be prepared to engage in community capacity-building.
- Show leadership, be visible and available.
- Be realistic, patient, and a bit brave.
- Make it clear you think of parents as genuine partners.
- Don't be frightened to ask parents to help solve big problems.
- Open your mind to parents' needs and attitudes.
- Appoint a parent/community liaison person to the staff.
- Create a place that parents can call their own.
- Acknowledge and celebrate parents' input.