Families need to take part in their children's literacy development. Thousands of hours of parent-child interaction provides the foundation for language and literacy development (Enz, 2003). Parents are very important role models for their children's language and literacy development (Crowley, 1997). Most parents want their children to be successful readers but some parents are not confident in how to provide information, or using strategies and activities to promote reading success. According to Enz (2003) learning to read is a combination of A, B, and C. A is for attention when learning. This can be developed by two-way communication between the child and parent and by reading aloud a book that is appropriate for the child, which includes talking about the storyline, and listening to the child's responds. B is for bonding, when children bond with parents and are able to learn new information faster. Dickinson, and Tabors (2000), Enz, and Stamm (2003), and Shore (1997) research indicates that reading and talking with children help them feel more secure. C is for communication, parents and children that talk with each other and listen carefully to what is being said. These parents have children who achieve in language and literacy related tasks (Hart, & Risley 1995). One of the most effective ways of improving communication is reading books as a family both aloud and silently which should lead to a discussion that will enhance the literacy development of all members of the family.

Literacy bags can be used at different grade levels, Dever and Burtis (2002) and Dever (2001) emphasizes the use of family literacy bags for early childhood development. In her article, Family Literacy Bags: A vehicle for parent involvement and education, she quotes Adams (1990) who notes that "the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills eventually required for reading appears to be reading aloud to children regularly and interactively." This verbal interaction enhances the children's language development, sense of story and understanding of vocabulary and language structure (Adams, 1990). The Learning at Home is one of the six types of parent involvement in schools advocated by Epstein (1995). This encompasses help for parents in the form of information and ideas for helping children with homework and curriculum related activities and might include family math, science, or reading activities. Schools, libraries, and bookstores can assist families with literacy development by being involved in any of the following suggestions.

Types of Bags

There are several variations of literacy bags that may be used with families. The bags described are different types that can be developed and be made available for families.

Book Bags (Vulelich, Christie, & Enz, 2001) are like a writing briefcase, which maybe checked out from the classroom or school library. The bags should contain books and interactive activities that would extend the child's language and literacy development. Things to consider when developing the bags include the child's developmental stage, interests, experiences, and literacy levels. The bag is a nylon gym bag with three or...
example. families are encouraged to. year. At the end of the school year The Family Literacy Bags project has successfully engaged kinder-gartl'n children and their families in interactive book reading. Prelimi-nar), findings suggest that families did enjo)' the FLB. the)' engaged in r'ading. and the) elaborated the r'ading experience with discussion and activities that focused on the books, Parents also acquired new learning about how to read and interac-tively with their children during and after book read-ing. This is particularly true with regard to posing open-ended discus-sion questions as parents and chil-dren talked about... Home literacy bags promote family involvement. Child-hood Education, 75(2): 71-75, Berger, E.H. (1995). See more ideas about Family engagement, Do you want to involve more families in your family literacy events at school? Would you like to have rocking events that families will love? Here are some family literacy night ideas and tips that will set you on the road to success. STEM Family Night Planning Guide — Vivify STEM. STEM Family Nights are awesome! They generate excitement for STEM in your school and community by allowing students, teachers, and families to explore STEM together in a fun way! Family Involvement or Engagement? This past spring, I attended the Alabama pre-K conference in Montgomery. The closing session featured Luis Hernandez (Early Three things that I do every week that improves parent involvement: 1. At the beginning of the year, I set a challenge out to my class at parent orientation that for 100 books read, the kids get a trophy at our end of the year awards program. The kids also know from previous exposure that I hand out additional reading awards, and they are GOOD awards, not just trophies. I send home baggy books that are on each students’ reading level. The bags contain anywhere from one to five books that the kids can read and write down on their book list. This way parents have books that they know are appropriate for their child’s reading level. 3. The final step is communication. Encouraging Family Involvement. PTA Meetings Encourage parents to attend meetings so they know what is going on at the school. Open Door Policy -Let the family know that they can come volunteer anytime. Communicate with family through letters, face to face, or over the phone. Create a warm, respectable, organized, neat, and welcoming school environment. Hold activities such as book sales, school stores, and career days. 2 Family Literacy Bags a theme based collection of books includes related interactive activities students bring home the books and/or activities from school to share with the family. 3 Compliment Your Curriculum teachers can include books that will concentrate on areas of study that are included in the county and state curriculum this helps allow students to make connections with their world. 4 Before You Begin Send home a letter to parents explaining the purpose of the literacy bags include a brief list of reading tips include a parent response form. Download ppt "Reading Rockets Family Literacy Bags Michele English ISTC 601 March 18, 2010." Similar presentations. Family Involvement Starts Here.