

# Section 5 Learning Practices – Bringing it Home

## SD Toolkit for Engaging Parents and Families

Tools found in Section 5 will assist schools to establish and maintain positive relationships with families. Parents and families play a critical role in student academic success and developmental growth. Schools must believe that parents and families make a difference and must help families in supporting them and showing families what the schools expectations are for learning, and how families can support that learning.

### Learning Practices - Bringing it Home

[Click here for learning websites](#)

A graphic for 10 learning websites for children to use while at home.

[Click here for teaching with heart blog](#)

Great site for math, and reading skills for families and school. Some TPT but also free resources as well.

[Academic Parent-Teacher Teams](#)

Link to Wested with information about how to initiate parent-teacher teams in your school.

[Academic Parent-Teacher Teams Article](#)

An article from edutopia about experience in using Academic Parent-Teacher Teams.

[Click here for ways to explain the Common Core standards to parents](#)

Core at Home is a resource to help parents understand the Common Core State Standards related to literacy. (K-5 ELA Anchor Standards) It includes simple ideas to reinforce the standards at home through fun and practical "real-life" activities and literacy routines.

### The Love of Reading Starts at Home

[Click here for parent blog on reading at home](#)

Reading strategies and tips for parents to help children at home.

[Click here for tips on helping parents teach math.](#)

Ways parents can help with math at home.

[Click here for book suggestions for students](#)

Literary Book Titles for different personalities (middle school)

Ideas for parents on how to help their child with math.

[Reading is Fundamental](#)

Maintaining a clear connection between home and school is essential to monitoring a student's progress and taking action when there are problems. This website has advice from experts on fostering those vital pathways of information about schoolwork and homework and working successfully between home and school.

[SD READ](#)

A great website that provide information and resources for summer reading and reading throughout the year.

[Finding the Right Fit Book](#)

A flyer for parents that give them information on how to help pick out a book with their child.

[Attendance in the Early Grades - Why it Matters for Reading](#) - a flyer for parents

## Linking to Learning

[Click here for MobyMax which helps students avoid the summer slide](#)

Recent research has also shown that summer slide is more likely to affect low-income students, who might not have ready access to local summer learning opportunities. In fact, summer slide is a leading cause for the achievement gap affecting low-income students, who are then less likely to graduate high school or enter college.

[Click here for Boys Town parenting tips](#)

Boys Town offers a vast library of parenting information and articles developed over many decades by our child behavior experts. Explore the [Boys Town's Parenting Principles](#), based on nearly 100 years of real-world experience with tens of thousands of families. And, whether you are a parent, grandparent or guardian of a toddler, teen or someone in-between, we've got [Parenting Guides](#), articles, videos, tools and quick tips on a variety of subjects, all developed by [Boys Town's experts](#).

[Click here for ideas to improve education \(Raise your hand Texas\)](#)

Raise your hand Texas is a great site for research based literature on the main concerns in education today. The following research reports are the result of in-depth explorations of specific issues, case studies, proven best practices, and relevant trends.



Hawthorne Elementary School, Principal Patti Pannell, offer Parent University, which is a program directed and taught by Poornima D'Souza (Parent Educator). This program has weekly classes for parents (immigrants and refugee) of students who are English Language Learners. They meet at Hawthorne Elementary on Friday and Monday mornings. Participants join discussion about various topics: they engage in conversations with other parents, as we do projects and give presentations to each other - ultimately building personal confidence, which leads to a stronger and more successful community.

[Click here for help with preventing the summer slide](#)

Fantastic resources and ideas on how to prevent summer slide and research based literature discussing the academic losses that occur over the summer months.

[Click here for three ideas from scholastic to prevent summer-slide](#)

Strategies to help your reader improve her reading during the summer and beyond.

[Click here for freehomeschooldeals.com](#)

This site offers free math games, and Mad Minute worksheets.

[Click here for math skills parent handout](#)

Free Parent Handout with suggestions on helping students at home with math skills.

[Click here for educationworld-Dr-Lynch/preventing-summer-slide](#)

This site provides you with some simple strategies for preventing summer learning loss, without taking the fun out of the school break.



Marta Henriksen, retired Middle School and Elementary Teacher, Contact future students/families by sending postcards, emails, a couple of times during the summer reminding families to read. You might tell them what you are reading or have read, tell them of new books they might be interested in and possibly get together at the local library to look at books and maybe even share a quiet place to read together.

[Click here for edutopia for some great ideas on preventing summer slide, good for MS](#)

Some outside-the-box resources, as well as reading, math and writing activities, that will help counteract summer slide.

## Building Relationships

[Program Linked to Learning How Closely is Your School's Parent Engagement linked to learning?](#)

Survey for parents

[Click Here for Parent/Child Communication Journal](#)

Ideas on how to make a communication journal between a parent and a child.

[Click here to teacherspayteachers where you can download free bracelets.](#)

Free Brag Bracelets for students in PreK - 6th grade.

[Click here to teachersnotebook for free reminder bracelets](#)

Just write, cut and tape the ends together for an instant reminder to your students!  
Great for: field trip reminders, permission slip reminders, parent meeting reminders  
homework reminders, show-n-tell reminders, volunteer reminders, and much more!

## Homework

[Questions to Ask - After How was Your Day](#)

A flyer for parents

[Homework - A Busy Parent's Guide -](#)

A flyer for parents

[Click here for tips on simplifying homework systems](#)

6 Strategies for teachers on simplifying their homework systems.

[Click here for alternatives to traditional homework](#)

Principal Practices for Communication (alternatives to traditional homework)

[Click here for learning websites](#)

A graphic for 10 learning websites for children to use while at home.

[Click here for discussions and alternative ideas to homework](#)

This site has lots of alternative ideas for homework, it also has a few blogs for the discussion of homework.

[Click here for a checklist back school night](#)

Building Trust With Parents. Suggestions for how to make Back-to-School Night a hit for you and your students' parents.

[Click here for homework newsletter](#)

This is a free copy of a homework newsletter. Consider sending one of these home every week with the spelling words for the week, math vocabulary, homework listed, reminders of events

happening at school, ask parents to put it on the refrigerators every week. Have the class make magnets with their teacher's name, phone number, email address and any volunteer requests!

## Curriculum of the Home

**Curriculum of the Home** - a parent flyer

[Youtube Video about Academic Parent Teacher Teams](#)

A school approach for educating parents on grade level content taught before the school year begins.

[Dual Capacity Framework](#)

A framework for designing family engagement initiatives that builds capacity among educators and families.

[What Siri can do](#)

Siri can help students with spelling words, calculations, etc. Check this link out for other ideas.

[Click here for Get Ready to READ!](#)

This is a free site with early learning resources designed to support educators, parents, and children in the development of early literacy skills in the years before kindergarten.

[Click here for free kindergarten skills for children to work on before school starts](#)

Handouts that can be given to parents at a kindergarten round up.

[Click here for free math posters](#) (TpT)

Free Math Printable Posters Middle School

[Click here for math guide](#)

Middle School Parent at home guides for Math.

[Click here for tips on curriculum night](#)

Information on class procedures, schedules, and curriculum. Handouts with ideas for helping with math and reading at home.

[Click here for parent support in reading and math](#)

Tips for parents to support reading and math at home.

[Click for graphic about car activities](#)

Ideas of activities for parents to do with their child while in the car.

[Click here for building writing skills at home](#)

These two handouts are geared toward helping parents build their child's writing skills at home. One outlines an overview of K-2 writing development, while the other lists simple and inexpensive ways parents can help their child become a better writer.

[Click here for free reading at home guide](#) (TpT)

Middle School Parent Reading Involvement at home Guides.

[Click here for Preschool skills](#)

Learning at home Preschool skills.

**Math tip-** Use the same math language at home and around the community for math. Try having a math vocabulary night, where students and volunteers make posters using the new math vocabulary and definitions, if possible have examples of the method the word is describing. Place them in area businesses and parents could also have a copy at home so that everyone in the community is using the same language as the students.

## Sharing Academic and Developmental Goals



[Click here for visible learning](#)

Educators and researchers share valuable insights about *what* feedback is (and isn't) and *how* feedback works to improve learning.

[Click here for resources on Smarter Balanced test, test scores](#)

A short video that explains the test and how students' scores could be reported. It has information for parents to help them understand the test, and what their child's tests scores mean.

[Click here for sharing data](#)

Good ideas on how to share data with parents, Parent Data Nights, demystify the reports, teacher acronyms, test scores, identifying trouble areas for their child, as well as providing tips and tricks for

helping their student at home.

[Click here for data sharing ideas](#)

Great resources for sharing data to parents from the teacher to the principal.

[Click here to learn the process of assessment](#)

Share assessment data with students and parents. Bringing families into the process of assessment and instruction empowers us all to play a role in supporting our students' academic achievement.

[Click here for information on how to share student data using google](#)

5 Ways to Use Google Drive for Parent Engagement

[Click here for Data Sharing Tip Sheets by Harvard Family Research](#)

This is a wonderful resource of tips on how to share data with teachers and families. Encouraging teachers to allow time during meetings to discuss and review data, and making sure the data is used to drive the instruction to meet student needs.

[http://www.azpromisingpractices.com/ESSentials\\_Sharing\\_Data\\_to\\_Create\\_Stronger\\_Parent\\_Partnerships.pdf](http://www.azpromisingpractices.com/ESSentials_Sharing_Data_to_Create_Stronger_Parent_Partnerships.pdf)

[Click here for videos to show staff, parents on topics teachers deal with regularly.](#)

Eductopia is an educational site that offers a variety of information, suggestions, short videos on issues teachers and administrators deal with. It has a lot of different topics, well written and easy to access.

## Talking to Parents about Content Standards

[Click here for talking to parents regarding common-core-standards](#)

Videos and resources on how to educate parents about the common core

<http://doe.sd.gov/ContentStandards/index.aspx>

[Click here for free common core math cheat-sheets](#)

A great resource for common core math standards put on one page, this is available for grades K-5. It would be very useful if put in your lesson planner for reference.

## Sustaining your Efforts

[Click here for research based information and also a blog for principals](#)

The key to a successful school is a great principal.  
Stephanie from Principal Principles

[Click here for suggestions on conversations with students, parents, and staff](#)

Have Better Conversations: 5 Dos and Don'ts for Principals

[Click here for 5 dos and don'ts for principals](#)

“The Teacher’s List of Needs.” A section summary from the book *How to Deal with Teachers Who are Angry, Troubled, Exhausted or Just Plain Confused* written by Elain McEwan-Adkins.

[Click here for rethinking-teacher-time](#)

Suggestions to redesign school schedules to prioritize learning for students and teachers. Students perform better in schools where teachers have meaningful collaboration with their peers.

[Click here for making student data part of your conversation](#)

This is an article written by Principal Cole Young about the use of data, how to use it to drive conversation with educators. It does a good job of explaining how to begin the process of having teachers use data to drive instruction.

## Helping Parents and Families to Understand Data

### Tips for Sharing Data with Families

Ideas and tips for sharing data with families.

<http://edge.ascd.org/blogpost/have-better-conversations-5-dos-and-don'ts-for-principals>

A handout of dos and don't when communicating with parents regarding data

[Click here for American Institute of Research](#)

AIR is one of the world's largest behavioral and social science research and evaluation organizations that is research based. This video is awesome and even includes acronyms for parents that teachers use for reading scores.

[Click here for a youtu.be video on sharing data with parents](#)

Sending home detailed data reports that focus on a specific skill, This video is awesome and even includes acronyms for parents that teachers use for reading scores.opens a two-way line of communication with parents about their child's learning.

[Click here for tips on parental involvement](#)

Ideas for increasing parental involvement and why it matters.

[Click here for a blog explaining data and how it is used.](#)

This blog is a wonderful resource for both teachers and parents. It talks about data, what is the purpose of the data, what are you going to do after the data is shown. It has graphic examples of data and shows how data is used to drive instruction.

[Click here for corkboard connections](#)



Great ideas for building relationships with students, faculty and family.

[Click here for ways to avoid the summer slide](#)  
Summer Slide Elementary Grades

[Click here for tips on summer slide](#)  
8 useful tips on preventing the summer slide.



“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.”  
- Jane D. Hull