



Reflection / Darpan

- Do you remember parent meetings in your school?
- What is your experience? Write in few words

Building Parent - Teacher Collaboration



Picture 9.1

Activity

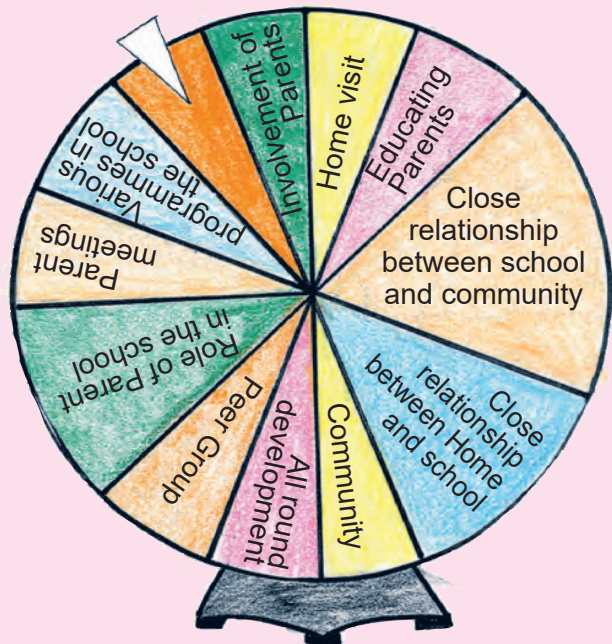
Play a game – SPIN A WHEEL

Preparation for the game

Prepare a word wheel with an arrow in the middle.

Method of playing a game

- Divide a class into two teams.
- Select two leaders from the teams.
- Select one student from each team for playing music or clapping.
- Start the 'Passing the parcel game' among two leaders.
- Selected student of the opposite team will come ahead and stand with his/her back to the class and will start clapping or playing music. After 2 to 3 minutes the music will be stopped.
- Now the team who holds the parcel will have to answer.



- Teacher will spin the wheel.
- The team with the parcel will answer when the wheel stops. The word which appears on the wheel in front of the arrow will be explained by the team members.

Parental involvement produces measurable gains in a child's holistic development. As we all know, parents are a child's first teacher. When a school system values and respects the relationship between a parent and a child and welcomes parents as equal partners in their child's education, parents and teachers have an opportunity to influence a child to live a positive and fulfilling life.

A strong school-family relationship can greatly benefit the child as well as parents. It is proven that children do better and achieve more when parents are involved in their progress in school. Their concerns can also be sorted out quicker when parents share a positive relationship with the school staff. Parents



Picture 9.2

also get reassurance that their children are receiving good education as trust and respect develops with the relationship with the school.

9.1 Importance and Need of Parent School collaboration

As a component of school level parental involvement home-school relationship helps a lot. Parents build partnership with school to help children. Home School relationship or collaboration requires concrete efforts.

Home and school collaboration needs recognition by all involved in the process. The educational outcomes are influenced by events in the home, and school. The partnership between home and school can impact children's behaviour within the classroom.

Home and school are two separate systems with separate roles and responsibilities in educating children. For successful home-school collaboration, parents and teachers must remove barriers which may interrupt the process. Socio-economic level, chaotic home situations are some of the barriers. Cultural differences, level of parental education also influence the child's behaviour.

Why are healthy parent-teacher relationships important? Positive connections between parents and teachers have been shown to improve children's academic achievement, social competencies and emotional well-being. When parents and teachers work as partners, children do better in school and at home.

9.1 a) Need for a close relationship between home and school

- To communicate

Communication between home and school should be regular, two-way and meaningful.

- To develop parenting skills.
Parenting skills are to be promoted and supported.
- To enhance learning process.
Parents play an important role in assessment of children's learning.
- To promote parent's involvement.
Volunteering by parents in school activities is welcome.
- To become a partner in decision making
- To collaborate with the community.
Community resources can be used to strengthen schools, families and children's learning.

Basic principles behind these needs

- There is a shared responsibility between the school and the home in order to provide children with a better education and good start in life.
- The school will welcome families and reach out to them before problems manifest themselves.
- The schools will help families to be included in the decision making process.
- The school will organize meaningful experiences for children.
- Families will monitor children's attendance.
- Families will engage in literacy experiences.
- Families will become acquainted with teachers and other school personnel.
- Families will participate in decision making process.
- There will be effective two way communication between home and school.
- There will be opportunities for families to learn how to help their children.

Relationship between home and schools is not merely an activity, it is an attitude. It occurs when home (parents) and school share common goals, and both contribute to the process. Effective communication is essential to create a successful collaboration.

Successful relationship between home and school passes through stages.

1) Introduction

- Building positive rapport.
- Focused behaviour – Goals, objectives.
- Focused on problems.

2) Identification

- Individual perception of problems.
- Identifying a mutual goal.
- Desired outcome.

3) Solution

- Target oriented and goal oriented behaviour.
- Tap the resources for desired outcome.

4) Implementation

- How the goals are decided.
- Accomplishment of goals – goal oriented behaviour, actions.
- Discuss the results, if the goals are not satisfied, discuss the ways to modify the goals without blaming each other.



Picture 9.3

9.1 b) Importance

- It provides positive adult-child relationship.
- Physical and emotional safety is provided through close relationship.
- It gives a feel of accountability.
- It recreates a feel of belongingness to parents.
- Parents perceive teacher's behaviour as supportive and caring.
- It helps to establish good rapport and communication between home and school.
- It commits to meet children's needs.
- It supports children and helps to develop confidence.



Picture 9.4

- It provides positive messages to each other.
- It creates sustainable relationship.
- Home school relationship provides knowledge, skills and attitudes to children.
- Provide equal opportunities in education.

9.2 Methods of Parent School Collaboration

Changing family life has forced modification in the traditional role of parents in present days. Parents work outside home and children no longer stay at home. Many children start in child care as babies and continue through preadolescence. In other words parents do not have the sole responsibility of rearing children. It is shared with day care teachers and caregivers.

The condition of a child in the present days cause both parents and teachers to realize that their responsibilities overlap and they must work closely. So parent's involvement never ends. Rather, when parents and teachers work together it brings unexpected benefits to children. Parents also learn handling children properly from teachers.

Now a days it is considered that parent involvement and interaction with their children is essential to the success of any educational or child care programme.

Concept of Parent involvement

It is important to know what 'parent involvement' exactly means. Parental involvement ranges from listening to decision making of any centre run for children.

Evans (1971)

'Parental involvement refers to some degree of participation at all major stages of an early education programme : Planning, execution, evaluation and modification.'

Advantages of Parent School Collaboration

- Teacher and parent come close.
- Teachers get direct assistance from parents.
- Parents can serve as resource people or volunteer.
- Parent to parent programme also can take place. They provide information to each other.
- Parents are involved in meetings conducted by experts and benefit from the experts.
- Parents are the medium of bridging the gap between home and centre.
- Parents get benefit from teachers that they learn the rearing and handling practices which they can apply at home.
- Meaningful participation of parents definitely contribute to a child's development.
- Parent's participation also helps to increase confidence in children.
- It helps to develop skills in children.

1. Meetings in the centre

If the meetings are conducted in the centre, participation of parent's is very important.

How parents can get involved :

- Parents are active listeners.
- Parents can help the teacher in arrangements for meetings turn by turn.
- Parents can help in communication with the experts or extending invitations to guests.
- Parents can also pick up and drop the guests.
- Parents can take responsibility to arrange tea and snacks for the meetings.
- Parents can take on a leadership role during meetings to conduct group discussions.

- Parents can take on a leadership role to contribute and share their own views during meetings.
- Parents can share information with other parents regarding the ways in which they solve day to day problems with their own children.
- Parents can convey their needs to the teacher during the meeting.

2. Gatherings

Gatherings are fun programmes for children. Most of the time children are excited during such gatherings.

How parents can get involved :

- Parents can help to manage children.
- Parents can take responsibility of the decoration.
- Parents can work as volunteers to manage the crowds.
- Parents can help by compering for programmes.
- Parents can help with preparation of the programmes.
- During the gathering somebody can provide snacks to children.
- Parents can help to transport children from a centre to the gathering hall.
- Parents can provide their vehicles for transporting children.
- Parents also can participate and perform for children.
- Parents also can take responsibility of make-up and drapery.

3. Festival celebration

Ideally all festivals of India should be celebrated in centres because children from different communities are admitted. The main objective behind festival celebrations is to make the children aware of different cultures of India.

How parents can get involved :

- Making decorations.
- To provide material to celebrate festivals.
- Parents from different communities can get involved during particular festival.
- Parents can come and give detailed information of the festival.
- They can bring pictures, photographs, C.D. to show, how the particular festival is celebrated in particular community.
- Children can dress in traditional clothes to celebrate the festival, with parents help.
- Festivals are for meeting and greeting each other and it is a mere enjoyment.
- Parents can provide food, which is a speciality of a particular festival.

4. Picnics

Picnics are arranged with two purposes in mind namely is fund and education. When children go out on picnics they may feel insecure, so they need help. The teacher cannot manage all alone the various age groups of children at a time. Then parents can pitch in.

Here parents can get involved :

- Parents can suggest suitable places for picnics.
- Can provide vehicles.
- Can provide food.
- Can help with their presence.
- Can go with centre to help in managing children.
- Can make the picnic economical by providing some money if the centre needs.
- Can make the moments enjoyable for children by performing some fun activities at the picnic spot.

5. Exhibitions

Exhibitions are arranged for parent education or sometimes for children. During these, parents can definitely help in arranging and explaining. Arranging and clear up after exhibition. This is a tedious job.

How parents can get involved :

- To decorate the place.
- To prepare material.
- To prepare charts.
- To arrange the material and exhibits.
- To make the arrangements for place for exhibition.
- To explain the charts.
- To prepare models for exhibitions.
- To make the invitations.
- To manage correspondence.

6. Competitions

For very young children competitions should not be conducted, but in the centre for older children competitions can be conducted. For younger children it should be as fun activity.

How parents can get involved :

- They can come as a judge for competitions.
- They can sponsor the prizes.
- At the time of actual competitions parents can help the teachers.
- Parents can provide sweets and other snacks during the course of the competitions.

7. Balmela

Balmela is also a fun activity for children, where children can enjoy the arranged games and activities freely.

Balmela does not have any rigid frame of activities. How it should be arranged depends on the teacher's creativity.

How parents can get involved :

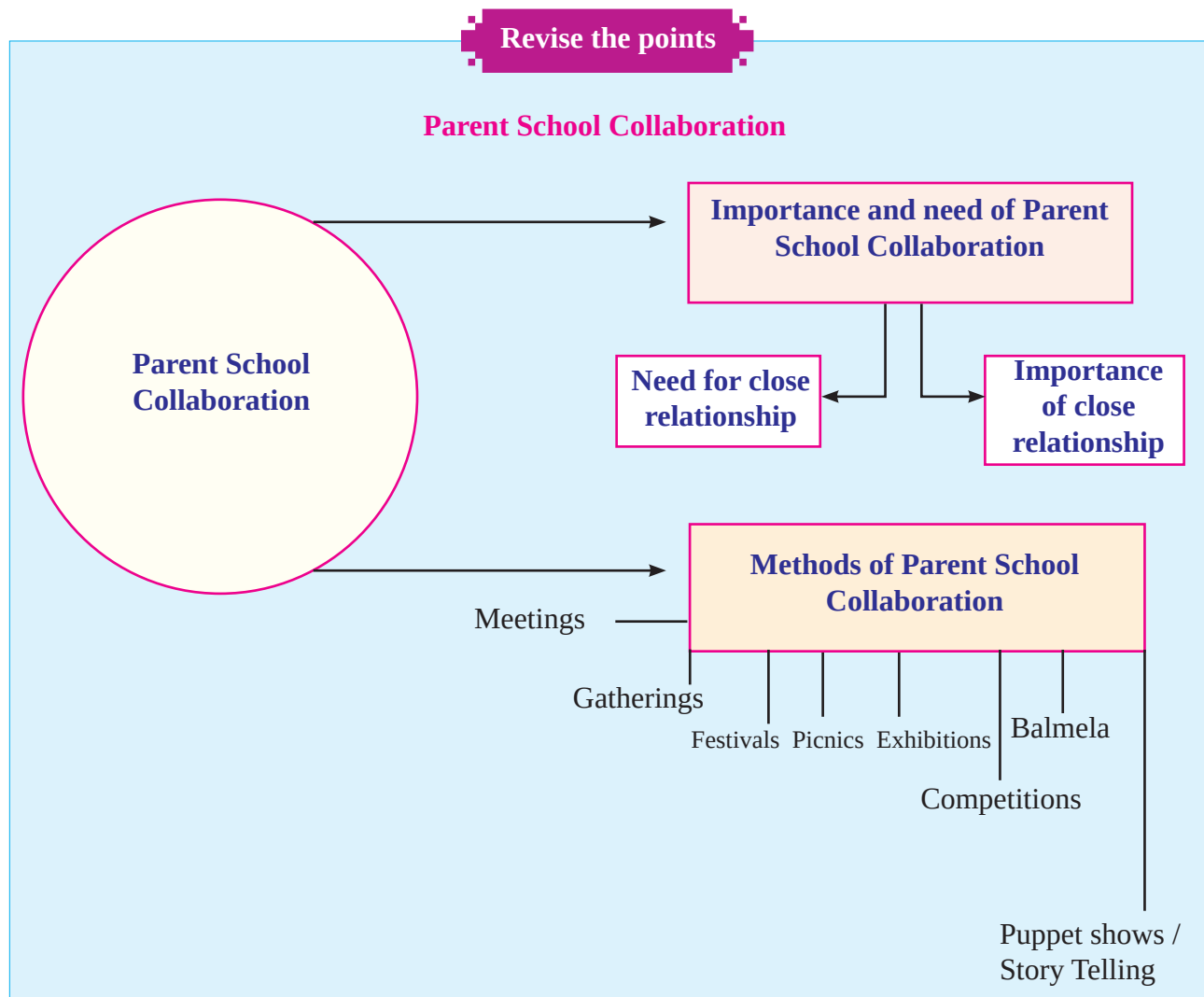
- Parents can generate ideas for balmela and share with teachers.
- Can help in different stalls.
- Can manage and handle children.
- Can put up a stall of snacks / food.
- Can work as resource person in the stalls of storytelling / puppet shows.
- Can arrange games, physical activities for children.

8. Puppet show/ Story telling

Puppet show is a technique and skill to tell a story and keep the children engaged. Through puppet shows education also can be provided along with enjoyment.

How can parents get involved :

- Parents can work as resource person.
- Parents can help to write scripts.
- Parents can make the puppets.
- Workshops for puppet making and conducting puppet shows for children can be conducted.
- Parents can also teach puppets making and performing puppet shows to older children of the centre.
- Parents can suggest stories for puppet shows or write new stories for shows according to the needs of children.



Glossary

Collaboration : Collaboration is the process of two or more people or organizations working together with co-operation to complete a task or achieve a goal.

Effective communication : Effective communication is defined as communication between two or more persons in which the intended message is properly, delivered (encoded) through appropriate channel received properly (decoded) and understood by the recipient(s)

Parent involvement : Parental involvement refers to the amount of participation a parent has when it comes to schooling and their child's life.

Exercises

Q. 1. Match the following characteristics with the stages of development :

A	B
1) Way of delivering goals	a) Identification
2) Building positive rapport	b) Solution
3) Identifying a mutual goal	c) Implementation
4) Resources for desired outcome	d) Introduction

Q. 2. Write short notes

1. Meetings in the centers
2. Gatherings
3. Exhibitions
4. Balmela
5. Competitions

Q. 3. Write about parent participation in the following

1. Festival celebrations
2. Picnics
3. Competitions
4. Puppet shows

Q. 4. Write the answers

1. State the need of Parent - School collaboration?
2. Write the basic principles behind the need of parent school collaboration?
3. Write the advantages of parent school collaboration?
4. Write the importance of parent school collaboration?
5. How should be the parent involvement in Parent's meeting in the center?

Q. 5. Complete the boxes.

1. Technique of story telling

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2. Fun programme for children

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3. It is organized to educate the parents.

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Project / Self Study

Plan a Parents' Meeting

Part 1

- Subject :
- Subject Expert :
- Date : Day :
- Time :
- Venue :

Part 2

Write the following points in detail

- Notice for parents :
- Invitation card for Subject Expert :
- Furniture arrangement and room arrangement :
- Arrangement for snacks :

