

Family-Community Partnership

Samantha Seibel

EDU 413

University of Mary

Parenting

My dream job would be an early childhood special education teacher. My classroom is located inside of an elementary school in the Bismarck/Mandan area. The elementary school would be called Lake View Elementary. The students in my class are all in preschool. Their ages are between 3 and 5.

Effective parenting is a very important aspect of child development. Many studies have shown that the way that parents interact with their child influences the child's personality and their ability to cope with stress (Tone, D. M., & McBride, D. L., 2013). Being a parent can be very stressful at times and oftentimes parents find that their stress is picked up by the child which can negatively impact both the child and the parent. Offering parenting workshops that are available to all of the parents throughout the preschool is one way that can help parents that are having trouble parenting their child.

I chose to include a workshop in my classroom setting because I think that it will be beneficial to parents. Setting up a workshop can help parents that are experiencing behavioral issues in their child. Workshops also show parents that they are not alone and there are many resources available throughout the community that will help them with their struggles. Also, creating a time for teacher and parent collaboration is extremely important when developing relationships. Throughout the workshop, parents will be able to talk with professionals about different concerns that they might have. The professionals will be able to determine the best strategies that will work best with their children.

Previous to setting up the workshop I would send home a note with my students that would explain that Lake View Elementary would be holding a parenting workshop for parents that would be interested (*figure 1*). The note would also ask the parents to write down any suggestions of topics that they would like the workshop to cover. The note would be sent to every student in the school. Including parents in the decision of choosing which workshop topics they would like to go to helps to ensure them that they are an important decision maker in their child's future.

Figure 1

Parents,	1/20/18
Lake View Elementary will be offering a parenting workshop on Saturday March 24 th . This workshop will be available to all parents and family members.	
If you are interested in attending, please write down any workshop topics that you would be interested in below and return to your child's teacher.	
Thank you,	
Samantha Schon <i>Special Education/Early Childhood Teacher</i>	

When determining the location of the workshop I will consider many factors. After receiving the notes back from the parents, I will determine how many parents and families that will be available. I will make sure that the place the workshop is being held will be able to fit all of the children and families that are interested in coming. Also, I will make sure that workshop is in town and accessible to all families. I will also look at all of the topics suggested from the parents and determine which professionals and keynote speakers that will be included. After

determining the speakers, I will send the parents a poster with the detailed information about the event (*figure 1.2*).

Figure 1.2

Parent Workshops

Saturday March 24th, 2018 9-3pm

Lake View Elementary Gymnasium

Ages: Preschool-5th Grade

Cost: \$50 per family

Topics of the workshop include:

- Strategies for supporting kids with anxiety, low self-esteem and depression
- Discussion of the spiritual aspects of parenting the emotions
- Experience-based suggestions for supporting emotional growth
- Tips for mindfully and lovingly changing inappropriate behaviors

Childcare, lunch, and snacks will be provided for those attending workshop.

Please RSVP by February 28th by emailing Samantha Seibel at s_seibel@lakeviewschools.org or calling (701)867-5309

Communication

Communication is a vital part of developing relationships with parents. Communication is especially important at a young age. It is important for a parent to know what is going on in the classroom and discuss any concerns that they might have with their child's teacher. In a special education classroom communication is especially necessary. Teachers have the responsibility of sharing test results and Individual Education Plans (IEP's) with parents as well as general information. Communication logs are something that are frequently used in special educations to help parents and teachers to communicate efficiently (Fonteine, H., Zijlstra, H. P., & Vlaskamp, C. 2008).

Communication logs are very important because they show the parents what the child has done throughout the day and their mood. Communication logs also give the teacher's contact information on the top so parents are able to contact them throughout the day with any questions or concerns (*Figure 2*). Teachers might also write down any supplies that the students may need throughout the day such as diapers or wipes. Other things that can be communicated on communication logs would include upcoming fieldtrips and school events. Parents can also write the child's behaviors before school, when they last ate, and how long they slept on the communication log. I will also have the parents initial the communication log and return it with the child the following day.

Figure 2

My Day

Last night I slept from _____ to _____.

Did I eat breakfast? YES NO

I was last changed at _____.

What I did today:

I went to:

PE MUSIC

Anything Else?

I need:

Reminders:

Teacher Contact Information:

Email: s_seibel@lakeviewschools.org

Phone: (701)867-5309

Learning at Home

Learning at home is another important aspect of child development. However, many parents aren't aware of the resources that they have available to them to promote learning at home with their children. The home environment is one of the most important aspects of learning at home. It is important that children feel comfortable in their home environment because that is where they spend the most of their time. Also, a comfortable at home environment helps to promote learning which will help them to transition into Kindergarten. It is also very important that parents are involved in their children's education.

Providing parents with educational resources for their children at home will increase the amount of effort that parents will put into their children's education. At Lake View Elementary, I plan to develop a parent/ teacher resource room that is available to both parents and teachers. In the resource room I will have different resources available to be checked out to promote learning at home. These resources will include books, reading programs, computer games, and other technology resources that are available to be checked out. The resource room will also be filled with different fliers that promote community events and resources that promote children's learning.

Lake View Elementary will also put on a literacy night at the beginning of the year. During the literacy night, teachers will talk about the importance of literacy at home and give tips on how to encourage literacy at home (*Figure 3*). This will also help parents to meet their child's teacher and talk to different parents around the school. At the family literacy night, Lake View Elementary will invite an author to the school to talk to parents and do a read-aloud with the children.

Dr. Seuss Back to School Family Literacy Night

Lake View Elementary School

Wednesday, August 14th 2018

**Help us bring in the new school year with
a fun back to school reading night! Bring
your children for games, story time, door
prizes, and much more!**

**North Dakota Author Louise Erdich will also be at the event to do a
read aloud and sign her new book, Chickadee!**



To register please visit:
www.lakeviewschools.org or call
701-789-4562 ext. 456

**This is a free family activity (Don't
forget to bring your cameras!)**

Decision Making

Decision making in schools can sometimes be a tough decision for because schools have so much to consider and must carefully think over every outcome before making a decision. Studies show that involving parents in the decision making increases parent involvement in schools drastically (National Center for Early Development & Learning, 2000).

I think that involving parents to help make decisions is extremely important and valued by both parents and teachers. Parents deserve the right to help make decisions that will benefit their children and their future. Involving parents in the decision making process also allows parents to become involved in a collaboration team and determine what is best for their child.

I plan to create a public-private organization that invites parents, educators, child care providers, and nonprofit organizations to collaborate and decide the best ways to improve local child care, and family services for children. There are a lot of factors to consider before creating an organization for the community and teachers to form an organization. One thing to consider is determining a day that will work best for all the members of the organization. Prior to setting the day that the organization will meet, I will survey each of the parents and community members in the organization and determine which day will work the best for each member. Also, after I determine the number of members in the organization, I will come up with a meeting place that accommodates to all of the member's needs along with the size of the organization that was meeting.

The main purpose of the organization will be to determine any changes needed throughout the school and also determine what the school budget will be spent on. The

organization will also collaborate with different members of the community to prioritize the needs of the school.

Volunteering

Encouraging families to come to become involved in schools is another important part in developing a family-community partnership. Family involvement in schools is important because it allows parents to come to their child's school and experience different events and activities that their child is involved in. Also, it allows parents to collaborate with teachers and develop important relationships with each other.

My plan is to develop a school website that has a calendar that lists different volunteer opportunities that parents are able to get involved in. The website will also post pictures periodically of the volunteers throughout the school and the service projects that they have done. To increase the amount of parent volunteers, I will send a letter home and ask family members if they were interested in volunteering with the school and if so how they would like to participate in their child's school or the community. I will respond to the parents requests and plan volunteer opportunities accordingly.

Once a month I will host a Parent Day in my classroom (*figure 4*). The date of the Parent Day will occur every 3rd Friday of every month so parents are always aware of the day. The Parent Day allow the parents to come into their child's classroom eat breakfast then do different activities with their child throughout the school. The activities may include: a community service project, arts and crafts, reading, or a school performance. Grandparents are also welcome to come to the Parent Day as well.

Along with Parent Day, I will invite parents to become chaperones for any field trips or class outings that may happen throughout the year. Asking for parent chaperones throughout the year is also a great way to involve parents in their child's school. It gives parents an idea of what their child is learning in school and how they can promote learning at home.

Parent Day

Where?

Lake View Elementary School

Who?

Parents and Grandparents of Mrs. Seibel's class

When?

Every 3rd Friday of each month 8-11 am

What?

Parents and Grandparents are invited to join their young one for breakfast before joining their child in the classroom.

Please RSVP by emailing Mrs. Seibel at s_seibel@lakeviewschool.org

or calling 701-867-5309. We look forward to seeing everyone here!



Collaborating with Community

It is important that schools become involved with the community whenever possible. Inviting different groups into the classroom such as pre-service students and community professionals are both ways that a school can stay involved in the community. Taking fieldtrips periodically throughout the year is also an important way that schools help their students stay involved in the community.

My plan for my classroom is to schedule authentic field trips to help the children get involved in the community and connect the information to their real lives. The field trips will also help expand what is meaningful in the classroom community (Taylor, S. I., Morris, V. G., & Cordeau-Young, C. 1997). By taking field trips children are able to observe different social systems in the community such as fire and police protection. These field trips will also provide the children with first-hand experiences and they will be able to observe and draw conclusions during each of the trips.

Prior to going on the field trips, I will give my class the background knowledge on the field trips and the importance of them. I will also and make any accommodations necessary to ensure the safety for all of my students. One field trip example would be visiting the local bakery. Prior to visiting the bakery, I would read the students different books about the bakery and what different jobs that they have at a bakery. One excellent book that helps students to determine the process of making bread is the book "The Little Red Hen". I will also have my class practice sifting flour for bread and making the flour with water and yeast to determine what will happen to the dough as the yeast is added. Another great idea to try is to invite parents into

the classroom to make bread with their children. This would be a great experience for both the parents and the children and will be a great bonding time for both of them.

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