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The Impact of Parental Involvement on Student Motivation

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Purpose:

To help teachers become aware of the affects of parental involvement so they can provide the best educational experience for their students.

Findings:

1. Where is parent involvement most effective?

In-Home Involvement

- More beneficial at home vs. involvement in school functions/activities (Englund, Luckner, Whaley, & Egeland, 2004)
- Engagement at home creates bridge with school (Gonzalez DeHass, Willems, & Holbein, 2005)
- Discussion at home increases retention (DePlanty, Coulter-Kern & Duchane, 2007)

In-School Involvement

- Negative connotation with parents being in the school (Gonzalez, DeHass, Willems, & Holbein, 2005)

2. How does parental involvement influence student motivation?

- “Parents are the key to the development of a child’s intrinsic motivation and often this motivation begins to grow when parent’s aspirations and value on education are present” (Gonzalez DeHass, Willems, & Holbein, 2005).

3. What are the barriers to parental involvement?

- Education level
- Finances, Race, and Culture (Fan & Williams, 2010)



Picture 1: My brother, mom, and dad at Parents Weekend at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Methodology:

This study was conducted through a **literature review** of 10 peer reviewed research articles from the last decade (2002-2012). I searched the online databases of Educational Resources Information Center (**ERIC**) and **Google Scholar**. These studies are both quantitative and qualitative, but for the purpose of this study, the **qualitative data** is examined and used. The key words used to find these studies are as follows: parental involvement, student academic success, student motivation and parental involvement, home-based parental involvement.

Literature Review:

- No concrete definition of parental involvement (Englund, Luckner, Whaley, 2004)
- Need to examine separate types of involvement – not all facilitate same thing (Gonzalez DeHass, Willems, & Holbein, 2005)
- Student outcomes most improved when family was involved (DePlanty, Coulter-Kern & Duchane, 2007)
- Parental involvement beneficial because it offers a sense of security and comfort
- Those students who demonstrate intrinsic motivation engage in academic tasks due to the enjoyment of the tasks and the desire to learn (Fan & Williams, 2010)

Conclusions:

- Motivation comes from parents values on education
- CYCLE--Students motivated when parents are involved, parents involved when students are motivated
- Less educated parents may believe they are not qualified to be involved in student’s education
- At school involvement creates idea that the student is in trouble or has behavior problems
- Home based involvement shows students that parents value their education – also motivates

Future Implications:

Teachers can use this to recognize the practices of parental involvement most affective and model for students. Future research should aim to determine how parental practices can be fostered by teachers so all students have the same opportunities to succeed academically.