

Affinity 1 - October 28, 2024

Group Members' Topics:

Cobb Co... working on the academic piece; providing instructional strategies to parents of students K-2

Jane Grillo literacy

Emily Cimarossa--I am working on literacy on the PreK end

Kim Chester - Bartow - literacy

Bonnie Morris - Walton - Literacy

Genevieve Harris- Douglas- ASPIRE

• Websites Jane Shared:

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/prek/welcometogaprekathome.aspx>

National Center for Educational Statistics this is old from 2009 but, it is useful

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009804.pdf>

Attendance Works Advancing Student Success by Reducing Chronic Absence

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/research/>

Parent Powered Attendance and Engagement

<https://parentpowered.com/blog/k12-attendance/attendance-and-engagement/>

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Great resources and if you have a local chapter even better <https://www.nami.org/>

David Pitonyak, a behavior specialist who I have heard speak several times. <https://dimagine.com/>

Check out his 7 questions and, think about the one that directly relates to our work as parent mentors: How Can We Better Support the Person's

Supporters: <https://dimagine.com/seven-questions/7-how-can-we-better-support-the-persons-supporters/>

Virtual Lab School — an online platform that provides professional development courses and resources for childcare and youth development professionals

Virtual Lab <https://www.virtuallabschool.org/focused-topics/supporting-children-with-challenging-behaviors/lesson-6>

Work with Early Intervention Specialists - she also has some amazing resources and games I can send home with families. Per Christina Holland

Literacy:

Here are some websites that provide resources for families aiming to improve literacy skills:

1. **Reading Rockets** – <https://www.readingrockets.org> - offers guides, tips, and reading activities to help children learn to read. It includes resources for parents, educators, and caregivers.
2. **PBS Kids** – <https://pbskids.org> - features interactive games, videos, and activities based on popular children's shows, fostering reading and literacy in an engaging, age-appropriate format.
3. **Storyline Online** – <https://www.storylineonline.net> - provides free videos of celebrated actors reading children's books aloud, paired with illustrations. This resource promotes listening skills and vocabulary building.
4. **Scholastic Parents** – <https://www.scholastic.com/parents> - has resources for parents to support their children's reading and learning, including book recommendations, reading guides, and activities.
5. **Starfall** – <https://www.starfall.com> - offers free literacy activities and reading games suitable for early readers, focusing on phonics, reading comprehension, and vocabulary development.
6. **Family Literacy Project** Family Literacy Project - <https://familyliteracyproject.co.za> - focuses on family literacy programs and community-based learning initiatives, including support for both adults and children to improve literacy within families.
7. **Read Aloud 15 MINUTES** – <https://www.readaloud.org> - encourages families to read aloud together, with resources and guidance to make reading a daily habit that fosters family bonding and literacy development.
8. **FCRR - Florida Center for Reading Research** - <https://fcrr.org/families> - <https://fcrr.org/student-center-activities> -

School Attendance:

Encouraging school attendance often involves resources that highlight the importance of consistent attendance, provide strategies to overcome barriers, and support both students and parents. Here are some helpful websites that offer tips, resources, and support for improving school attendance:

1. **Attendance Works** - <https://www.attendanceworks.org/> - a nonprofit organization that focuses on reducing chronic absenteeism. They offer research, strategies, and toolkits for educators and parents to boost attendance.
2. **The National Center for Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE)** - <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/topic-research/engagement/school-participation> - provides resources to promote a positive school climate. They have materials to support attendance initiatives, helping students stay engaged and motivated.
3. **U.S. Department of Education – Chronic Absenteeism** - https://www.ed.gov/search?search_api_fulltext=attendance - provides statistics, initiatives, and resources to address chronic absenteeism. Their site includes tips for parents, schools, and communities to support regular attendance.

Improving school attendance is essential for fostering academic success and long-term student engagement. Here are some effective strategies to boost attendance rates:

1. **Build a Positive School Culture**
 - **Cultivate Engagement**: Create an environment where students feel safe, valued, and excited to learn. Positive relationships with teachers and staff can make students feel more connected.
 - **Encourage Belonging**: Activities like clubs, sports, and extracurriculars can help students find a sense of belonging, motivating them to attend regularly.
2. **Use Incentives and Rewards**
 - **Celebrate Good Attendance**: Recognize students with strong attendance through certificates, shout-outs, or small rewards.
 - **Classroom Competitions**: Promote friendly competition between classes or grades to maintain high attendance, offering group rewards like a special activity or treat.
3. **Parent Engagement**
 - **Regular Communication**: Keep parents informed of attendance expectations and how absences impact learning.
 - **Workshops and Resources**: Offer resources and workshops to help parents support their child's consistent attendance, particularly for younger students.
4. **Identify and Address Barriers**
 - **Flexible Policies**: Recognize and accommodate legitimate challenges, such as family issues, health conditions, or transportation problems.
 - **Intervention Programs**: For students struggling with chronic absenteeism, provide counselors or mentors who can work with families to address underlying issues.
5. **Make Learning Relevant and Engaging**
 - **Active and Project-Based Learning**: Create an engaging curriculum that emphasizes interactive and hands-on activities.
 - **Real-World Connections**: Show students how their studies are relevant to future careers and personal goals, making education feel meaningful.
6. **Establish a Monitoring System**
 - **Track Attendance Regularly**: Use software to monitor attendance in real-time so you can identify and address issues quickly.

- **Early Intervention**: When a student shows signs of frequent absence, reach out early with support and resources to prevent chronic absenteeism.

7. **Create Clear Attendance Policies**

- **Set and Communicate Standards**: Clearly explain attendance policies to students and parents at the start of the school year.

- **Provide Consequences and Support**: Implement fair, consistent consequences for unexcused absences, balanced with support to help students get back on track.

Combining these strategies with a supportive school environment can significantly improve attendance and help students reach their academic potential.

Positive Behavior Management:

Here are some family-friendly websites that focus on positive behavior management strategies, resources for parents, and tools to help children develop strong social-emotional skills:

1. PBS Parents <https://www.pbs.org/parents> - Offers resources and articles on managing children's behavior, developing routines, and teaching social skills. The site includes videos, games, and activities that support social-emotional learning for kids.

2. Positive Parenting Solutions <https://www.positiveparentingsolutions.com/> - This website offers a range of parenting resources, including online courses that provide techniques for positive discipline. It covers topics like reducing power struggles, handling tantrums, and fostering respectful communication.

3. The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL)- <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/family.html> and <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/strategies.html> -

Provides research-based resources on promoting social-emotional development in children, along with strategies to support positive behaviors and manage challenging ones effectively.

4. Parenting Science - <https://parentingscience.com/> - A resource based on research studies about child development and behavior management. It covers various age-appropriate behavior challenges and effective discipline techniques grounded in psychology.

Each of these sites provides practical tools and strategies, from evidence-based articles to interactive activities that can help children build positive behavior skills and support families in creating a nurturing environment.

For resources on behavior strategies, several websites offer valuable tools and tips, particularly for educators and parents:

1. **The CDC's Classroom Management and Behavior Resources**: The CDC provides guidelines for setting consistent rules and logical consequences, which are essential for reinforcing positive behavior in both physical and virtual classrooms. This resource is comprehensive, with templates and tools for creating behavior matrices and promoting equitable classroom management strategies.

<https://www.cdc.gov/classroom-management/approaches/index.html>

2. **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**: PBIS.org offers a variety of tools to support positive behavior in schools, including strategies for reducing challenging behaviors and creating positive reinforcement plans. Their guides are particularly helpful for teachers looking to build proactive, preventive frameworks in their classrooms.

<https://www.pbis.org/tools/all-tools>

3. **Transform Challenging Behavior**: This site specializes in early childhood behavior management, offering free resources like transition tip sheets, behavior "cheat sheets," and access to training videos. These resources emphasize practical strategies for managing challenging behaviors in early learners, with methods that apply across various environments.

<https://www.transformchallengingbehavior.com/freeresources>

4. **TeacherVision's Behavior Strategies**: TeacherVision provides resources specifically geared towards classroom management and student behavior. It includes techniques like behavior contracting, logical consequences, and fostering positive peer interactions, which are beneficial for managing both individual and group dynamics.

<https://www.teachervision.com/teaching-strategies/behavior-management>

Here are some effective behavior strategies for parents to help guide their children positively:

1. **Set Clear Expectations and Rules**

- Establish simple, age-appropriate rules that are easy to understand and remember.
- Explain the purpose of rules and why they're important to create consistency and structure.
- Reinforce positive behavior when children follow these expectations.

2. **Use Positive Reinforcement**

- Praise or reward children for good behavior to encourage them to repeat it. Rewards can be as simple as verbal praise, a sticker, or extra playtime.

- Focus on specific behaviors (e.g., “Thank you for sharing with your sibling”) to reinforce exactly what you want to see.

3. **Model the Behavior You Want to See**

- Children often imitate their parents, so demonstrating calm, respectful, and kind behavior can teach children how to handle situations.

- Show empathy and patience to guide children on how to manage emotions.

4. **Set Consistent Consequences**

- Use natural or logical consequences related to the behavior when rules are broken. For example, if a toy is thrown, the child might lose access to it temporarily.

- Be consistent with consequences so children understand the cause and effect.

5. **Practice Time-In and Time-Out Techniques**

- Time-ins are moments of connection, such as comforting or talking about feelings with the child, to help them regulate emotions.

- For challenging behavior, a brief time-out can provide the child with a chance to calm down and reflect, rather than as a punishment.

6. **Redirect and Offer Choices**

- If a child is acting out, redirect them toward a positive activity or behavior.

- Give children choices within boundaries. This can increase cooperation by allowing them a sense of control (e.g., “Do you want to do your homework before or after dinner?”).

7. **Teach Problem-Solving Skills**

- Guide children to think of solutions to conflicts or challenges. This can empower them to handle situations more independently.

- Role-playing can be a fun and effective way to teach these skills.

8. ****Stay Calm and Patient****

- Children respond better to calm, patient responses. Taking a deep breath before reacting can help model emotional regulation.

- Keep your tone and body language calm to help the child feel safe and secure, even when discussing challenging behaviors.

9. ****Hold Regular Family Meetings****

- A family meeting offers a time to discuss rules, expectations, and any challenges, as well as positive changes in behavior.

- Encourage children to share their feelings and thoughts openly in a supportive environment.

10. ****Encourage Empathy and Communication****

- Teach children to identify their emotions and to consider the feelings of others. This builds empathy and helps children understand how their actions impact others.

- Encourage open communication where children feel safe to express themselves, which can reduce frustration-driven behavior.

11. ****Use Visual Reminders or Charts for Younger Children****

- Visuals, like a sticker chart or a color-coded schedule, can be helpful for young children who may struggle to remember rules.

- They can provide tangible motivation and a sense of accomplishment for positive behavior.

12. ****Focus on Connection Over Correction****

- Building a positive, trusting relationship with your child makes it easier to influence their behavior.

- Spend quality time together daily, so your child feels secure and valued, which naturally encourages cooperation.

Each child is different, so adapting these strategies based on their unique needs can make them even more effective. Consistency, patience, and understanding go a long way in fostering positive behavior and a supportive parent-child relationship.

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