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PARENTS AS PARTNERS

A QUICK GUIDE TO HOME VISITS



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Parents as Partners: A Quick Guide to Home Visits

How to Set up Home Visits for the First Time

Setting the Groundwork:

1. **Gather information.** Make a list of all your students, with names and phone numbers of parents.
2. **Prioritize in small batches.** Sort through your priority visits. Highlight 3-5 students and families per week to start reaching out to.
3. **Positive communication first.** If this home visit is in the context of students who are struggling, you must have communicated with a family before requesting or offering a home visit. If you have a struggling student you're considering for a home visit, **text the parent today** and tell them one thing they've done well. Do the same again tomorrow. (For more background on the power of positive communication as a foundation-builder [read this.](#))
4. **First, just give the parent a call.** Give them a call, and let them know about some areas the student has been struggling. For example, you could say: *"Hi! Your student did great today with X. We've been working really hard on Y, however, and he is having some trouble. Have you seen that at home also? PAUSE. LISTEN. RELATE. What do you think about practicing Y in this way? Is this something you could try at home?"*
5. **Wait, then call again.** Call them after a week or so, and ask them how it's been going at home. Get their input on what's worked and what hasn't. LISTEN. RELATE.

Setting the groundwork for a home visit means engaging parents in conversation. You are then set up to do something out-of-the ordinary, by visiting a child and their family at home. This will result in a special relationship, an extraordinary amount of trust, which will lead to students and families being more engaged, and kids seeing better results.

Home Visit Setup:

1. **Confirm positive communication established first.** See above.
2. **Call to listen.** *"Hi, this is Teacher! I was calling to see how it's been going at home with Student and working on Y."* Really listen to them.

3. **IF it's the right time, offer something deeper.** This is where you offer a home visit as a convenient option for parents to discuss a topic more in-depth, and that you're honored to do so.

Sample Script: Awesome, thank you so much for putting in that extra time at home to help Student. You are his best teacher and I appreciate this partnership so much. I would really love to set up a time to talk with you and Student and show you some more strategies and ideas for how to support at home. I am totally happy to come to your home to make it convenient, and it would be my honor to do that. What do you think?

During the Home Visit:

1. Thank them for having you in their home.
2. Bring resources/games to teach them or ideas to share. Don't forget how precious it is to spend 1:1 time with students and families this way.
3. Include the child as well! Have them show you their favorite toy or introduce you to their sibling.
4. Ask families for insights on the best way to reach their child, or an inside look into what motivates their child. Rather than telling a parent what to do with their child, ask LOTS of questions.
5. Watch families be thrilled to have you and honored you took the time to care so much about their child's learning.
6. Remember, it doesn't so much matter what happens in the meeting. The fact that you took the time to go is the basis for your *future* relationship with that family and child.

Working with high school students? [Read this.](#)

What Happens Afterwards?

There's almost nothing bad that happens as a result from a home visit from your child's teacher or administrator.

Kids will feel important, families will feel cared for, and you will have a deeper understanding of a student and where they come from. Don't forget that the key is asking questions, opening your eyes, and listening to understand. Parents are partners.