

Parent Engagement Tips for Extended Summer Learning Programs

Looking for quick, actionable ways to engage families in your summer learning program? This resource offers practical tips and simple strategies to strengthen parent partnerships this summer. Use these quick tips to keep families informed, involved, and inspired throughout your program.

Information: Keeping Families in the Loop

Goal: Ensure parents are informed, reducing confusion and fostering trust.

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| Clear Communication Channels | Offer flexible communication options like phone lines with voicemail in multiple languages, social media updates, and QR codes linking to resources. |
| Centralized Access to Information | Build an app or use an existing platform where parents can access schedules, attendance reports, and important updates in real-time. |
| Frequent Updates | Include updates on academic progress (e.g., "Students completed 50% of their reading goals this week!") to keep families engaged and proud. |
| Open Houses or Orientation Sessions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Offer virtual options for families who can't attend in person, with recorded sessions available later. » Include student performances or displays to show program value. |
| Program Goals Transparency | Create a one-page infographic summarizing how the program bridges learning gaps and supports future academic success. |

Empowerment: Equipping Families to Support Success

Goal: Help parents feel confident and included in their child’s summer learning journey.

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| Parent Workshops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Introduce fun, low-cost educational tools like library apps or free online games tailored to the curriculum. » Provide strategies for creating a supportive study environment at home. |
| Interactive Materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop “Family Challenge Kits” with activities aligned to program goals (e.g., a math scavenger hunt or a reading bingo card). » Include a calendar of suggested learning activities families can do weekly. |
| Encourage Parent Feedback | Use interactive methods like town hall-style meetings or family focus groups to gather qualitative input. |
| Recognize Family Contributions | Create a “Parent of the Week” spotlight or showcase positive involvement stories in newsletters. |
| Build Confidence in Tutoring Programs | Host live or recorded Q&A sessions with staff, sharing tips for maximizing student growth. |

Direction: Guiding Families Toward Continued Engagement

Goal: Foster long-term connections and align family involvement with student success.

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| Clear Expectations | Provide a checklist for parents outlining ways to reinforce program goals at home. |
| Home-School Connection Activities | Offer creative tasks, like a family recipe activity tied to math measurement skills or a nature journal aligned with science themes. |
| Family Events | Organize events like a “Learning Picnic” where families can explore fun, hands-on activities alongside their children. |
| Support Transition to the School Year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop personalized progress reports that show summer growth and next-step recommendations for fall. » Create a simple “Back-to-School Action Plan” with tips for re-establishing routines. |
| Link to Community Resources | Provide a curated resource list with links to free workshops, family-friendly events, and academic support programs. |