



PRACTICAL PARENTING PARTNERHIPS

Family Involvement in After School Programs

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MOSAC² Professional Development Institute

PPP is pleased to participate once again in the MOSAC conference in Springfield, Mo. We will be exhibiting as well as presenting. Our presentation is actually the PPP for After-school training. We will present three back to back sessions from 1:30 – 5:00 and encourage those participating to attend all of the sessions in order to receive a certificate for completing the training.

Training topics include the role of after-school staff and programs as a link between home and school, family involvement in after-school programs, the strengths model, communicating with families and connecting for student success.

Leaders who participate will also be qualified to take the training back to their staff. An accompanying training guide will be available for a fee. One hour of college credit is also available for an additional charge. If you have questions find me on the exhibit floor Saturday morning or e-mail me now at jshepard@pppctr.org.

Remember, we will also have **poly binders available at \$2 each**. This is a fraction of the original cost but they were ordered by mistake and it is too late to return them. They would be great staff handbooks. We will have a supply at the exhibit booth at the conference. We will also ship these to you for \$2 each plus shipping charges.

Evidence

The March 2008 Metlife Foundation *Afterschool Alert*, Issue Brief No. 32 discusses ways after-school programs can support family involvement in education. The benefits of parent involvement on student achievement have been well documented and yet schools often are challenged by establishing strong relationships with parents. The article identifies some of the barriers then discusses ways before and after school programs can link families and schools.

They also site a study (Perkins, 2004) which shows parent involvement in after-school programming yields the same positive outcomes for children, families and programs as parent involvement in the typical school day. The article goes on share best practices and examples. You will find the full text of **Afterschool: Supporting Family Involvement in Schools** on the Afterschool Alliance website at www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_32_parent_involvement.cfm

Best Practice from a Site

Food and fun are natural parts of a family night but sometimes school-age care sites don't have the facilities to prepare and serve a meal. PPP trainer Karen Lawrence, in St. Joseph, solved this by having families prepare their dinner on site then take it home for cooking and eating. She and her staff hosted pizza nights. Families assembled their pizzas from the crust, sauce and toppings available. They then boxed their pizza and took it home with baking instructions. Boxes were donated or sold at cost to the program by local pizza restaurants. Other stations such as graphing each person's favorite kind of pizza, classifying ingredients in the food pyramid, or writing pizza stories can help pass the time while waiting to assemble a pizza.

This spot is for you to share your success stories. Let us hear from you. You may drop a few lines in the mail or e-mail to us. Let us know what is working at your site!

Dates and Announcements

Now through January [PPP Regional Meetings:](#)

December 3	Independence, Hilton Garden Inn
January 8	Rolla, Shoney's Restaurant
January 13	Portageville, DAEOC Building
February 4	St. Joseph, Keatley Center, SJSD
February 10	Jefferson City, PPP Center

November 14-16 [MOSACC² Conference](#) in Springfield, MO – PPP will present & Exhibit

November 20	PPP for After-school, Kirksville
December 5	PPP for After-school, Webb City
January 29	PPP for After-school, Springfield
February 26	PPP for After-school, Maryville
March 19	PPP for After-school, Jefferson City

April 3 & 4 [Partnering for Success – School, Family & Community Conference](#)

Please forward this newsletter to anyone else you think might be interested. You may also print copies. Those readers who do not receive a notice when the new issue is ready may sign up for an announcement on the PPP website at www.pppctr.org.

A newsletter published by the PPP Center afterschool educators participating in the PPP program.

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