



## **Parent Involvement Collaboration and Advancement**

by Shelly Lock, Program Development Coordinator

With the close of the 2009-2010 school year, we breathe a sigh knowing that things may slow down a bit. Summer provides a change of pace but also an opportunity for planning. This is a great time to reflect on the successful parent involvement that was a part of the school year and take a look at areas where parent involvement fell short. Are we connecting with all families? Are we empowering parents in their role as education partners? Are we providing support to parents to enhance learning at home? Is there ongoing two-way communication between home and school? Are we collaborating the many parent involvement efforts going on in our school?

Chances are that your school has some great parent involvement activities and efforts in place. Parent involvement is multidimensional. Is your school addressing the various types of parent involvement that have an impact on student success? PPP has identified the following dimensions that can guide your self assessment and planning:

- I. Providing parenting information*
- II. Planning and providing parent involvement opportunities at school*
- III. Building school-community partnerships*
- IV. Communicating to parents about performance and assessment*
- V. Helping parents support their children's learning*
- VI. Obtaining parent input on curriculum and instruction, discipline and school climate*

As you plan, also review your district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). Parent involvement may be directly addressed in the plan or may be a tool to achieve the goals addressed. Collaboration of your parent involvement efforts with the CSIP makes sense.

PPP offers training and professional development opportunities that can assist your school in achieving your parent involvement/student success goals. PPP can provide technical assistance in assessing your needs, planning, coordinating with other parent involvement efforts, collaborating with CSIP, and carrying out your plan. On-site training, staff workshops and family nights can be a meaningful part of your plan to improve parent involvement. PPP resources also offer information and support to staff and families. Visit our website [www.pppctr.org](http://www.pppctr.org) for more information on what PPP offers as you plan parent involvement for 2010-2011!

## PPP CENTER UPDATE

by Janet Shepard, Director

Budget woes have made it necessary for PPP to work on a limited schedule this summer. Janet is already off for the summer while Shelly will work at least a portion of June. Both will be checking e-mail and checking with Donna in the office for messages. Resource order forms, training registration, and requests for professional development will be processed as usual.

We are exploring options for sustainability such as a membership base and continuing to seek grants. Please consider including PPP in grants you are writing. Prices for training, workshops and resources will undoubtedly be increased for the coming school year. We are still, however, accepting orders for [PPP resources](#) at the current prices.

PPP was pleased to be a part of Missouri KidsFirst Pinwheels for Prevention event at the Capitol in April. Pictured are Shelly and Janet along with staff members from Missouri KidsFirst and Children's Trust Fund.



We have scheduled training in St Louis the first week in August. Home Visit will be held August 3, Transition to Kindergarten August 4 and Implementation August 5 and 6. We will be setting dates for the west side of the state soon. As always, we will come to you for a large enough group.

## HOME VISITING

by Janet Shepard, Director

Marian Wright Edelman talks about the importance of early childhood home visiting in her weekly column. Visits as a means of helping children and their families transition into school-based early childhood programs including kindergarten would be included in the types of visits she is discussing. Early Childhood home visiting has received national attention with the Early Childhood Home Visiting Program which is a part of the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#). You can read the full column at this [link](#).

We have scheduled home visit training in St Louis for August 3. Training will be held at the LIFT offices downtown. Please see the flyer for additional details. If you would like to participate in the training but need a different location, please e-mail [Janet](#) to schedule.

## SITE NEWS

by Shelly Lock, Program Development Coordinator

PPP is working closely with selected school districts who are receiving PIRC (Parent Information and Resource Centers) grant support. A coaching model is being used to assist districts in assessing parent involvement needs and plan to improve the partnership between home and school. Hickman Mills C-1 School District has taken a comprehensive approach to advance their school parent involvement. Representatives from each elementary school met with Shelly Lock, PPP to discuss the benefits of parent involvement, explore beliefs and philosophy about parent engagement, reflect on school climate, review the dimensions of parent involvement, and plan for improvement. The team realizes the impact that strong parent involvement has on student success and the positive power of parents! Plans include staff professional development, family workshops and use of PPP resources. PPP can provide the same type of coaching model for your school. Contact us for more information.

# UPCOMING TRAINING

## Home Visit Training

**August 3 St Louis MO – LIFT-MO – 815 Olive Street, Suite 22, St Louis MO 63101**

## Kindergarten Transition Training

**August 4 St Louis MO – LIFT-MO – 815 Olive Street, Suite 22, St Louis MO 63101**

## Implementation Training

**August 5 St Louis MO – LIFT-MO – 815 Olive Street, Suite 22, St Louis MO 63101**

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Practical Parenting Partnerships was created in 1992 by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with support from the Danforth Foundation.

PPP Is sustained by a fee structure, contracts and grants with major funding from the U. S. Department of Education Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC).

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## SUMMER LEARNING

by Shelly Lock, Program Development Coordinator

Just because children are not in school, don't think that learning stops. Summer is an awesome time for education! Here are a few ideas:

**Play outside!** Physical activity, whether it's through organized sports or backyard play, is crucial for children. Contact your local parks and recreation department for team sports and summer activities. Spend time outside in physical activity as a family.

**Read daily!** Have a variety of books available for your children to read over the summer and establish a reading time and expectation. You can acquire books from the library, garage sales, or by swapping with friends. Make a summer reading list. Don't forget to be a good role model and let your children see you reading.

**Try activity/puzzle books!** Children can improve problem solving skills and concentration with crosswords, Sudoku and other puzzles.

**Journal daily!** Encourage your child to write daily about their day, a quick thought, or a creative story. A decorated spiral notebook can be the canvas.

**Take your child grocery shopping!** Math and writing skills can be sharpened as they make a shopping list, add up the grocery bill and weigh fruit.

**Cook together!** Include your child in the kitchen. Cooking improves reading, math and science skills.

**Do chores!** Giving children jobs to do develops responsibility and self esteem.

**Volunteer together!** Seek community volunteer opportunities for your family to do together over the summer to develop good citizenship.

**Family gardening!** Gardening teaches about science and yields yummy results.

**Walk!** Go for a walk in your neighborhood or in the park. Take your camera to capture notable gifts of nature.

**Go to the library!** Weekly trips to the library give children something to look forward to and access to a variety of books.

**Do Summer Reading Programs!** Summer reading programs offer an incentive for children to encourage reading. Community businesses/restaurants and libraries often offer such programs. You can also create your own reading incentive program with stickers and special outings for rewards.

**Engage in water play!** Sprinklers, watercolors, bubbles, experiments with water and more can be fun, educational, and cool.

**Explore with art!** A box stocked with art supplies and craft materials provides for endless creativity.

**Write to a pen pal!** A relative or friend who moved away would love to get a letter and will likely write back if asked.

**Take a bus or train ride!** Explore various transportation means around your community. Map out your route ahead of time.

**Keep a daily calendar!** Have your child keep their own calendar marked with summer activities and events.