



# Early Childhood

## *Family Engagement*

### Facilitate family-to-family support

- Invite past program parents and community volunteers to share their education and career experiences with current students/families through “Lend a Hand Day”.
- *“Spotlight on Literacy Night”*  
An evening of literacy activities where parent volunteers and staff facilitate literacy activity rotations for other students and their families.
- *“Event en Espanol”*  
A yearly district wide event for families conducted in Spanish which consists of rotating sessions of interest to families as well as providing the evening meal for all participants.
- *“Nuestras Madres”*  
A Spanish organization for mothers which allows mothers to network with each other and district liaisons.
- Parenting Program at Garrett Primary  
Coordinated and provided by the District Behavior Specialist and a Primary Counselor

### Establish a network of community resources

- A collaborative agreement with The Children’s Clinic of Lufkin to provide standing orders for PRN medications and emergency procedure assistance
- *“Backpack Buddies”*  
A partnership with a local food bank that provides backpack take-home meals for students
- School nurses collaborate with the Lions Club, area doctors and clinics to assist students with glasses, immunizations, and dental services
- *“Backpack Bonanza”*  
A partnership with the Junior League of Lufkin to provide back to school services such as vision screening, dental screening, haircuts, backpacks and school supplies

### Increase family participation in decision making

- Parent Teacher Organization meetings
- District Tri-Ethnic Committee
- Campus Education Improvement Committee (CEIC)
- Bi-annual district Community Forums

## Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning

- *Garrett Primary Parent and Student Resource Center*  
A place for parents and students to participate in literacy and math learning activities. Books and buckets of literacy resources are available to parents to use with their children.
- *Child Progress Monitoring*  
Parents will have access to their child's progress monitoring reports.
- *Activities*  
A large array of videos of real parents conducting activities with their child is made available as model demonstrations for parents wanting to know more about how to support their child's learning at home. Teachers can partner with parents in practicing specific activities tied to their child's classroom instruction.
- *Online Learning for Parents*  
A series of interactive tutorials for parents offers deeper understanding about child development.
- *Understanding Child Development*  
A developmental milestone checklist birth to 8 years helps parents measure their child's intellectual, physical and emotional growth and development.

**Links for all information below can be found at:**

**<https://cliengage.org/public/parents/>**

## Develop staff skills to help families meet learning benchmarks

- Develop a variety of resources to welcome and communicate with parents including positive phone contacts, Open House activities, and effective communication through newsletters.
- Participate in on-going professional development opportunities on culturally sensitive, evidence based strategies.
- Establish a school culture that instills the belief in educators/staff that family engagement is a core strategy to improve teaching and learning.
- Reference chart that outlines all developmental milestones children should achieve from birth to 48 months:  
**<http://littletexans.org/>**
- *Great ideas for home learning activities*  
**<https://texasschoolready.org/media/1101/dollar-store-literacy.pdf>**

## Evaluate FE efforts for continuous improvement

- Home visit records
- Surveys conducted to solicit parent feedback and identify needs and focus areas at the end of each semester
- Parent sign in sheets to document parent participation in school events
- Evaluations completed by parents at the end of literacy events to determine effectiveness of activities.

