

Our Parent Parties work!

Research tells us that parent involvement can enhance children's achievement in school (Cheung & Pomerantz, 2012). Gamification, in particular, has been shown to increase parent motivation for things like supporting their children's healthy lifestyle (Blok, Valley, & Abbott, 2021) and practicing appropriate parenting techniques (Love, et al., 2016), resulting in increased positive parent behaviors and communication between parents and children (Bicen & Aydogan, 2020). Additionally, we encourage schools to include community resource representatives at parent parties and to reach out to civic groups, religious or charitable organizations to provide refreshments and/or prizes. Involving the community in the family partnership is vital (Mapp, et. al., 2022). The design of Parent Parties and Parent Parties ENGAGE is grounded in this important research.

In our own experience of over 30 years of direct involvement in Huntsville City Schools as well as reports from schools throughout the country, we have seen increases in parent and family engagement when the program is implemented in schools. Since the launch of Parent Parties ENGAGE, our parent mobile application, we have also seen increases in involvement and education of parents, many of whom have not yet engaged in more traditional parent involvement meetings and events.



References

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