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# I N S I G H T S

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## FOR FAMILIES

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### How busy parents can be involved

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❖ INSIGHTS FOR FAMILIES is provided by your child's school in recognition of your role as a partner in education. Written by Judy McDaniel, communications consultant.

Would you like your children to do better in school? If so, it's time to talk about time – yours and how you spend it.

We know you're already busy. We also know that your children's educational success doesn't only depend on what we do at school. It depends on you, too.

In fact, numerous studies have concluded that student achievement is positively influenced by community involvement and support. How can you fit involvement in your children's education into an already busy schedule? Here are some ideas:

- ❖ Be a role model. Show your children that intellectual pursuit and curiosity are natural and positive. If your children ask questions, help find the answers. Let your children see you reading. Spend an hour at least one evening a week reading as a family without the television set as background noise.
- ❖ Make it easy for your children to learn at home by providing a quiet, well lit homework center and a time set aside for homework to be done.
- ❖ Even if you work during the day, you may still be able to help as a volunteer by working at home or assisting with an evening program. No special training is needed to be a volunteer, but you might learn new skills as part of your involvement.
- ❖ Track your children's progress by attending parent-teacher conferences, asking to see work samples, and attending open houses. Check with your children's teachers to see if their progress is available via the Internet.
- ❖ Get involved on a school or district level advisory committee. Committee meetings are often held during the evening. You can help shape your children's education through your involvement. Committee openings are announced in school newsletters, on our Web site and in the local newspapers. You can also call us to let us know of your general interests.
- ❖ Join the parent organizations at your children's schools, and help out when you can.
- ❖ Keep yourself informed. Read school and district newsletters and visit school and district Web sites. They're full of useful and timely information.
- ❖ Keep up with the school board's actions, and communicate with board members frequently. Otherwise, they won't be able to take your point of view into consideration. School board members are people just like you who have been elected to direct the course of our schools. They are as close as your phone.
- ❖ Praise your children for school work well done.