

## Building Block: Communication



### Communication between the school and the home includes five essential topics:

1. What parents can expect from the school—its programs, curriculum, activities, procedures, and policies;
2. What the school can expect from parents—the curriculum of the home;
3. How the parents' child is progressing;
4. How the school can help the parents
5. How the parents can help the school.

Typically, schools are good at providing information about their programs and some indication of how the child is progressing. A greater challenge lies in giving due attention to what the school should expect from parents, how the school can help parents in their role, and how parents can help the school in its role. Most schools need to work hard at creating opportunities for conversation among parents and school personnel, and among parents. This requires outreach to parents, and it requires careful linkage between parent-child interactions and school learning.

From *The Mega System: Deciding. Learning. Connecting.*  
Available at [www.adi.org](http://www.adi.org)

## Best Practices

### Teacher Outreach to Parents Pays Off



In a study of Title I elementary schools, researchers found that teacher outreach to parents improved student progress in both reading and math. When teachers did these three things, student performance improved at a 40-50 percent higher rate:

1. Met face-to-face with each family in their class at the beginning of the year
2. Sent families materials each week on ways to help their children at home
3. Telephoned routinely with news about how their children were doing, not just when they were acting up or having problems

Source: *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships.* New York, NY: The New Press.  
Author: Henderson, Anne T., Mapp, Karen L., Johnson, Vivian, R., & Davies, Don. (2007).

## SOLID Foundation®

Reading • Studying • Respect • Responsibility

### Solid Foundation is a school-based team process that helps:

- Strengthen family-school connections
- Engage parents in their children's learning
- Improve student, academic and social learning



Check out the Solid Foundation Resource Menu at <http://www.adi.org/inventory/ResourceMenu.aspx>.  
Go to **Building Block: Communication**

### NEED HELP?

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### More information can be found at:

[www.center-school.org/pa-pirc](http://www.center-school.org/pa-pirc)  
[www.adi.org/solidfoundation](http://www.adi.org/solidfoundation)  
[www.Families-Schools.org](http://www.Families-Schools.org)

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