

## Building Block: Connection – Home

### Home Visits

A home visit is when a representative of the school visits a single home. Home visits enable a school to reach parents, especially those who might not come to school, with a welcoming message, materials and helpful advice.

Home visits require training for the home visitors, an agreed-upon group of students whose homes will be visited, and a system for tracking the results. For example, a school might decide to visit all second graders in the late spring and summer to boost summer reading. The children would be given books, and the parents would be given information to help them encourage their children's reading habits. The materials for the parents would also include a letter of greeting from the principal and information about parent activities at the school. Information about summer reading programs at the public library or recreation center might be included.

A middle school might decide to visit the homes of incoming sixth graders the summer before they begin attending the school. The emphasis for these visits might be on study skills and homework habits. Again, a welcoming letter from the principal and information about the school and its activities for parents would be included.

School communities interested in beginning these visits might initiate this outreach by arranging them



with new or incoming students' families the first year, and then institutionalizing them as an annual project as suggested above. Home visits might be made by school employees (teachers, parent liaisons, teacher aides) or community members compensated especially for this purpose.

This section contains materials that cover:

- Home visit procedures/training
- How to have a successful home visit
- Home visit calling script
- Contact letters/forms/schedules/reports
- Tip sheets
- Common sense safety tips

schools and regional economic development. "Children were introduced to their classroom teachers and families were given important school information. Even members of the respected Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence attended the event to evaluate whether this program could be implemented statewide. "It's the building the relationships and the relationship has to be built for kids, for parents, to be involved and students benefit from that," The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence Director of Parent Leadership Beverly Raimondo said, and local television station [News25](#) reported. The report can be viewed online at [www.news25.us/story/15151479/3400-henderson-co-students-get-home-visit](#).

## Best Practices: Henderson County Schools

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The Henderson County School District, Henderson, KY, blitzed its neighborhoods with home visits a week prior to the start of the new school year. Five hundred staff members took to the streets to visit 3,400 families of elementary school students. Supported by multiple community partners, such as the United Way of Henderson County, staffers were paid for their efforts and given a \$30 gas card. According to the *Evansville Courier & Press*, "The goal of the rally was to engage residents and to help them understand the direct connections between strong



**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 Section 11, pgs. 53-86, of the Solid Foundation Resource Manual for guidelines about Home Visit effective practices.



Don't forget you can also access this information online on your school's Solid Foundation page, Step 6 "View Resource Manual", Building Block: Connection – Home.


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