

# PARENT CONNECTION

June 2018

Kids "R" Kids of West Houston  
"The First Step to Higher Education"  
Home of Oscar, our Ocelot

Parent Participation: Implications of Your Early Interest

Answers for Homework, STEM Spotlight, June Birthday Celebrators

June Calendar of Activities

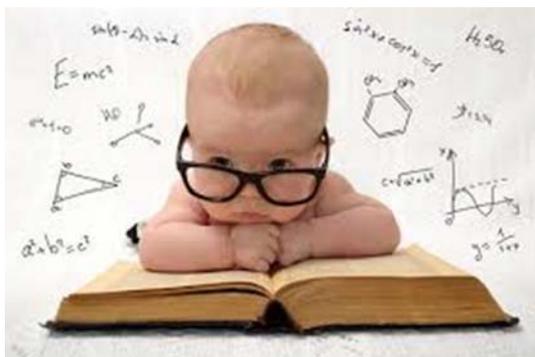
## Parent Participation- Implications of your Early Interest

While you might feel like you spend all of your time dealing with temper tantrums and tattletales, your involvement in your child's life during early childhood helps to set the stage for the person she'll become over the next several years. Pay attention to what you're teaching her because she's watching your every move, listening to every conversation and even using your hugs to gauge your relationship and her value.

### You're a Role Model

You're not just your child's caregiver; you're the most significant influence in her life. From table manners to social interactions, she's learning every value and skill from you during early childhood; this is particularly important given the messages children are bombarded with from television and computer access that are sometimes contrary to the values in the home. You can teach her how to handle emotions, by labeling your own, helping her to identify her feelings and giving her words to express them hence the phrase, "Use your words." You teach your child how to handle conflict when she sees how you approach disagreements and arguments in your life; by listening to what your child has to say, you show her that she is important and teach her how to listen to others.

larger hippocampus implies that children nurtured early in life have a larger capacity to cope in stressful situations. Furthermore, the hippocampus plays a key role in memory and learning, contributing to a child's academic success.



### Education Engagement

Involvement in your child's preschool program isn't the only way you can contribute to his educational success. Taking him to children's museums and simple trips to a neighborhood park provides him with opportunities for sensory exploration; working on simple science projects like baking soda and vinegar explosions helps to foster a love for science and learning; and playing counting games helps to reinforce the concepts he's learned at school. Keep apprised of what's happening at school for opportunities to expand upon the lessons he's learning each day. The collaboration between home and school during your child's early years helps to ensure he has the best academic start possible.

### Sending Messages

Your interaction with your child during the early years lays the groundwork for his viewpoint of himself and his relationships with others throughout his lifetime. When you give him plenty of hugs and kisses, you're clearly showing your affection he knows he's important because you want to be close to him. When you give him your full attention and show interest in the things that interest him, it helps build his self-esteem, too.

### Nurturing Development

Your involvement in your child's early years affects her brain structure. Nurturing parental involvement has been associated with a larger hippocampus in children. The hippocampal region of the brain plays a primary role in activating the autonomic nervous system in response to stress to help the body cope. A



Mrs. Monica Aparicio,  
Mrs. Erica Frost,  
Mrs. Esther Osho,  
Mrs. Chrissy Kelley,  
and Mrs. Stacey Zagorski.

These ladies, who make up the Parent Advisory Board, have given a generous amount of time to the vision and mission of our school by way of their participation and collaborative work alongside our management team.

They embody the parent involvement ideal and serve for their own children, but all the children receive the benefit.

Thank you to Ms. Frost, Ms. Kelley, Ms. Osho, and especially Ms. Aparicio for spearheading the teacher appreciation efforts for all our staff to enjoy their gifts.

# Answers for Homework: Family to Family



Here is a new feature we'd like to share with you to inspire a new partnership with our preschool families. Your blue folder is your valuable connection from home to school. It can be overwhelming at first thought, but here are some inside tips from a busy mommy, Ms. Charnette Carrington, who shares how she builds her children's homework time into her routine and her children look forward to it and work together for success.



*Q: What has been fun about the blue folder home activities for you and your children?*

A: One of the activities that stands out in my mind involved cutting out different shapes and playing a game that's similar to musical chairs. I believe this was in Reagan's folder, introducing the shape of a Star. In addition to the star shape, I cut out other shapes of papers, squares, triangles etc. The kids helped spread all of the shapes out over the kitchen floor. I would then play music, and watch as they would dance around the shapes. I would then pause the music and call out a shape. The kids would need to find the closest shape I called out and step on it. This is also an example of the lessons transcending levels, as this was an assignment for 350 and my son, in 600, enjoyed the game more than Reagan.

*Q: How have these weekly communications changed your perspective on your child's development? Have you noticed new vocabulary or new skills displayed when you prompted your children specifically because of the homework?*

A: The weekly communication has opened my eyes in understanding that learning has to happen inside of the classroom and outside of the classroom. Before the blue folder home activities, I'd ask the kids what they learned in school and fully accepted whatever answer was presented to me, no matter how short. These answers ranged anywhere from I don't know, to nothing, to what may have happened on the playground. Now, in my home, it's become a slight competition on who can tell mom their word of the week and describe what that means. There's a greater connection when I ask what did you learn to the specific items such as the word of the week.

I've noticed the hands on activities seem to stick with them. For example, Randall growing grass is something he has taken a lot of pride in. The same with Reagan. She brought home her own 'garden' and is extremely proud of the sprouts/growth of the seeds! This sort of hands on activity and visual/physical thing serves as a daily reminder for them.

*Q: How do you build time in your busy schedule for the activities as a single mom?*

A: It has become a routine in the house. I find that kids work better with a routine and an expectation. They will even remind me if I'm running late with my routine. Right after dinner is cleaned up, I ask them to go get their folders and we do the homework together, at the kitchen table. All distractions, such as tv, ipads, are removed so that we can focus on the task. Sometimes the assignments involve reading. In those cases, both Randall and Reagan get to go select their own books to read.

I do struggle at times with attention span, but I'm guessing that may not change! For example, while reading Reagan's book which is much more palatable for her age group, Randall gets slightly restless. In those cases, I try and give Randall an extra something to work on or incentive with helping read Reagan's book.

*Q: How do you hold them accountable to want to do the homework with you?*

A: The kids thankfully enjoy and look forward to doing their homework, especially picking them to carry home on Mondays. Since I have a flexible schedule with the kids, that involves their dad, we usually are a day ahead with homework.

Date	Names	Class
06/1	Bruno D.	350
06/3	Liam D.	250B
06/4	Vincent A.	250B
06/5	Ms. Melissa	300
06/06	Valeria S.	250B
06/06	Aiden G.	150
06/6	Zara S.	150
06/7	Karolina V.	500
06/7	Ms. Jennifer	AP/Mgmt
06/7	Ms. Genesis	
06/9	Hannah G.	150
06/10	Isla W.	250B
06/13	Reese W.	Gym
06/13	Noah B.	250B
06/14	Jacob N.	Gym
06/16	Dylan R.	500
06/20	Ms. Oanh	
06/21	Saheed O.	150
06/21	Henry B.	200
06/23	Omar S.	Gym
06/23	Ms. Cheryl	Gym
06/26	Ms. Terra	
06/27	Rylan M.	Gym
06/28	Matthew B.	400
06/28	Scarlett G.	250B
06/29	Olivia L.	600
06/29	Chastin D.	Gym
06/29	Kylie H.	250B
06/29	Ellis F.	150

**Wise Words from this Mommy....** *"The toughest part is sticking to the routine. Every day is different, and as hard as we try, we get tired, we may not have the exact materials needed for the activity etc. I've had to Google books to match the theme of the week. I don't always have a book specific to the theme/activity. I would say make it a family activity. The kids enjoy having as many as involved as possible. If everyone has a role there's a sense of ownership and worth that happens naturally."*



Fireworks in a Jar

Toy Chute

Crystal Letters

Rainbow in a Jar

**"EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE" KIDS R KIDS WEST HOUSTON "THE FIRST STEP TO HIGHER EDUCATION"**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>June 4</b></p> <p>Technology: 150, 250A, &amp; 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 &amp; 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 450 <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 &amp; 550 Technology: 550 &amp; 400 HATCH: 500</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Spanish: 250B, 400 &amp; AP Show &amp; Tell: 400-600 HATCH Tech: 350 &amp; 400 Technology: 400, 550</p>
<p><i>Classroom Themes: Traveling Tales (100-250); We're Going on Vacation 300-350); Away We Go (400-450); A Day at the Beach (500-600)</i></p> <p><i>Literary Features: Pete the Cat's Train Trip by James Dean, Froggy Goes to Hawaii by Jonathan London, Pete the Cat at the Beach by James Dean</i></p>				
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Technology: 150, 250A, &amp; 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 &amp; 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 450 <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 &amp; 550 Technology: 550 &amp; 400 HATCH: 500 <b><i>Father's Day Event</i></b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Spanish: 250B, 400 &amp; AP Show &amp; Tell: 400-600 Special Snack: 500, 550, &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 350 &amp; 400 Technology: 400, 550</p>
<p><i>Classroom Themes: Beach Balls &amp; Sand Castles (100-250); Sand &amp; Water (300-350); Take Me Out to the Ball Game (400-450); Hiking Through the Hills (500-600)</i></p> <p><i>Literary Features: Sometimes the Beach by Scott Johnson, Curious George Goes to the Beach by Margaret &amp; HA Rey,</i></p>				
<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Technology: 150, 250A, &amp; 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 &amp; 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 450, <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 &amp; 550 Technology: 550 &amp; 400 HATCH: 500</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Spanish: 250B, 400 &amp; AP Show &amp; Tell: 400-600 Special Snack: 500, 550, &amp; 600 Technology: 400, 550</p>
<p><i>Classroom Themes: Gone Fishing (100-250); Up in the Sky (300-350); Happy Campers (400-450); Summer Celebration (500-600)</i></p> <p><i>Literary Features: Hello Fish by Pete Gelesko, Sky Color by Peter H. Reynolds, Froggy Goes to Camp by Jonathan London, Fun in the Sun by David Catrow</i></p>				
<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Technology: 150, 250A, &amp; 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 &amp; 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 450, <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 &amp; 550 Technology: 550 &amp; 400 HATCH: 500</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Spanish: 250B, 400 &amp; AP Show &amp; Tell: 400-600 Special Snack: 500, 550, &amp; 600 Technology: 400, 550</p>
<p><i>Classroom Themes: Ice Cream Parlor Summer (100-250); Summer Olympics (300-350); In the Land of Fairy Tales (400-450); Summer Experiences (500-600)</i></p> <p><i>Literary Features: Clifford's Ice Cream Mess by Norman Bridwell, I Want to be a Gold Medalist by Debbie Drum,</i></p> <p><i>Goldilocks and the Three Bears by James Marshall, Summer by Alice Low &amp; Roy Mckie</i></p>				