Resource 8
Reaching Out to Families

Use this tool to generate ideas that can be included and implemented as part of your parental involvement plan.

- **MEETING PLACES AND TIME**
  Organize meetings in places that are familiar to and comfortable for parents. Meet parents at their apartment complex, church, park, library, chapter house, community center or a popular restaurant near their neighborhood. Hold meetings at various times of the day. Consider mornings, lunchtime, evenings and weekends to accommodate different schedules.

- **MONTHLY EVENTS**
  Sponsor monthly community family events. Use these events to provide information to parents on how they can help their child succeed in school and start to explore career options.

- **SURVEY NEEDS AND INTERESTS**
  Survey parents to determine the subjects in which they are interested and the best way to get information to them.

- **NEWSLETTERS, FLYERS, WEB SITES**
  Write a quarterly parent newsletter or one-page flyer and post it on your web site.

- **CELEBRATING PARENTS AS FIRST TEACHERS**
  Hold a “Parents as First Teachers” night to talk about what parents can do at home to support their child’s success, such as to reading to them and teaching them good problem-solving skills.

- **TOGETHERNESS ACTIVITIES**
  Create several half-sheet fliers, each with an activity parents can do with their child, such as talking to their child about when they were the child’s age. On the back of the flyer, provide information on why the activity is a good one for parents and children to do together.

- **PARENTS’ BREAKFAST**
  Hold a Saturday parents’ breakfast where teachers and school administrators prepare the meal and serve the parents. After breakfast, hold round-table discussions on issues that are important to parents.

- **FAMILY MUSEUM**
  Start a “family museum” in your classroom and highlight a student’s family each week. Send a letter home explaining the project and how parents can work on it together with their child as a way of celebrating their family background and history.

How can you incorporate these ideas into your parental involvement plan?

PLAN: __________________________________________________________

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