

# Family and Community Engagement Idea Source

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.”  
- Jane D. Hull

“Low parental involvement is generally not an indicator of low interest, but rather of community barriers that prevent schools from effectively engaging parents.”

Tiffany Anderson  
Education Update

ASCD  
2008-2009-2010



## Ways You Can Use Social Media to Engage Your Families

- Outreach
- Time-Sensitive Information
- Build Relationships
- Share Good News
- Serve as a Source for Online Learning for Parents

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent | Georgia Department of Education | Educating Georgia's Future



Click for video [GaDOE Ways You Can Use Social Media to Engage Your Families](#)



# Preschool Teachable Moments



## Taking a Fall Walk

*Wrae Croom- Contributor*

Preschool aged children have a natural curiosity about nature and the world where they live. With the arrival of this new fall season, exchange your in-home learning environment for an outdoor classroom. The following activities will combine quality family time along with school readiness skills.



### While taking a fall walk, teach your child by:

- Asking your child to name all of the colors they see
- Discussing how the fall leaves change colors and then fall off the trees
- Counting pumpkins (or other fall decorations) you see on your walk
- Collecting leaves, acorns, and pinecones for a fall display at your house
- Talking about how the temperatures are cooler in the fall than in the summer
- Explaining how animals prepare for colder weather
- Playing the "Nature Made or Man Made" game (identify objects that are made by nature and objects that are made by humans)

# Struggling With Motivation?



## Keeping Kids Motivated for Online Learning

**Milena Fuentes**- Contributor's Choice  
See Article by Caroline Knorr; [Common Sense Media](#)

**Mark the occasion.** This school year kids won't get to have Friday pizza parties and dances. But you can still give them **something to look forward to**. Plan a **celebration** (online) with **family and friends**, like a virtual class party, a Zoom dance, trivia night, or a **watch-together movie**.

**Let them see progress.** Some kids respond well to visual cues. Use a calendar or another visual aid to mark time so they can see how much they've accomplished and how much more there is to go.

**Do a related activity.** A positive aspect of remote learning is the flexibility to go deep on topics kids really love. Build upon and extend what they're learning with a natural connection. If they're learning about the solar system, let them stay up late on a weekend night and use an **astronomy app** to map the night sky.



### Mix it up

**Be willing to experiment.** If a kid is struggling with reading a book, turn it into a read-aloud or get an **audiobook**. If math is "too boring," do the problems on a whiteboard or outside using sidewalk chalk. A change of scenery can do wonders for a kid's motivation.

**Break up the day.** If you have some control over when they do the work, break things up a little. Let them have a slower-paced morning and do their work after lunch. Make an agreement in advance: "If you take the morning off, you still have to get your schoolwork done before you can play online with your friends later today."

**Change the timing.** There's nothing magical about the hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. -- that's just when we're all used to school happening. Of course, if your kids are in online classes, you have to accommodate those schedules. But for things like working through a packet of assignments from a teacher, there's no harm in experimenting with different times of day. Sometimes the change is all it takes.

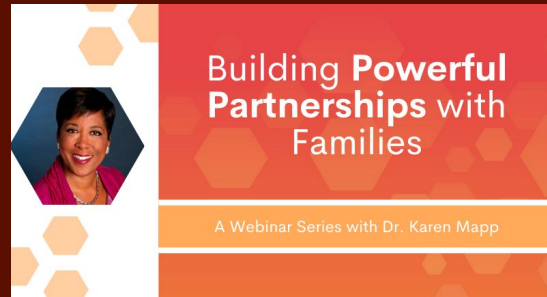


Jackson Elementary's PIC, Mari Beth Cameron, has integrated a "Virtual Parent Center." The Virtual Parent Center provides parents with another opportunity to receive support throughout the school day, giving them a face-to-face option virtually.

Mari Beth created a zoom link, added it to the Title I section of the school website and advertised it through the weekly school messenger email as well as a monthly zoom link reminder of the alternative support. Check it out!!

[Jackson Elementary Virtual Parent Center](#)





FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Dr. Karen Mapp Shares Her Tips for Building Powerful Partnerships with Families

Brittany Sullivan // Jun 16, 2020



**Part 1: Building Partnerships with Families: Where Do We Start?**

**Part 2: Virtual Meetings, Gatherings and Publishing Parties**

**Part 3: Tips and Tools for Effective Family Communication**

**Part 4: Family Engagement Phone Calls**

**Part 5: Connecting with Families with Special Needs Children**



**Shenée Holloway**- Contributor's Choice

Source: [Scholastic EDU Blog](#)

Michelle Moody- Contributor

## Learn a new language with Mango Languages



We know first-hand the value of being bilingual, and the struggle of not being able to speak or understand English. This is a great resource for our parents, to learn and/or strengthen their English skills. It is also a great tool for our teachers and staff, to have an opportunity to learn Spanish, or any other language not only for their own growth, but for the benefit of their kids and parents.

Learning a new language is fun and rewarding with Mango Languages, an online program available through the Gwinnett County Public Library. Mango is a language learning resource with courses in more than 70 languages. Mango also offers specialized courses in certain languages with subjects like business or cultural appreciation. Mango focuses on the core elements of grammar, vocabulary, culture, and pronunciation to help you communicate with confidence. Whether you're learning a new language or just brushing up, you can do it for free with your library card. Visit [GwinnettPL.org](#) and check out the [digital resources page](#) for access to Mango Languages and more.

# Tip Shares



## College Admissions

*José Tijerina, Contributor's Choice* ([www.tgreduexplore.org](http://www.tgreduexplore.org))

**6th-12th grade:** Teach students and parents how to craft a powerful and engaging Personal Statement for college admissions. In this activity, students and parents will think about different ways they can tell their personal stories by capturing the audience's interest and using narrative techniques to draft a compelling Personal Statement for college applications. Students will examine a sample personal essay, identify and reflect on the talents, skills, abilities and experiences that have shaped them and made them unique and draft their own personal statement. Find out more by visiting the partnership of The Tiger Woods Foundation and Discovery Edu (click [here](#) )



## Virtual Learning Help

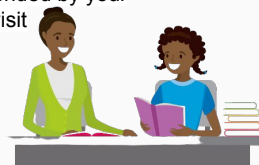
*Dena Jones, Contributor's Choice* ([7 Tips For Supporting Your Virtual Learner](#))

### Show interest, encourage independence

Though virtual learning may come with some challenges, it also provides a great opportunity for you to support your child while helping them develop independence. Help them get set up, review their schedule with them, and encourage them to complete their work in a timely manner. Provide positive feedback when they're doing well and provide constructive guidance when you see areas of opportunity.

During virtual learning, parents are also in a prime position to help children navigate barriers. Encourage your child to reach out to the teacher if they have questions or challenges. Solve problems together so they can build confidence to do it on their own in the future. This will look a little different depending on your child's age and ability level, but an opportune time to set the groundwork nonetheless.

Read with your child often and practice reading strategies recommended by your child's teacher. (Ask your child's teacher for their Lexile score and visit [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com) to search for recommended books).



# A Great Way to Keep Track of Parent Communication



- ❖ **PICs and POLs-** Please submit 3 “secrets to your success.” Email them to your program specialist, and we will create a Google document to share.
- ❖ Please remember to share information about **AKS@Home** recorded zoom sessions and online tip sheets. [AKS @Home](#)

*It is our hope that you will find inspiration in these ideas and be able to implement them in your schools with your families.*

*If you have an idea that you would like to share, please email:*

[megan.roedl@gcpsk12.org](mailto:megan.roedl@gcpsk12.org) and [shenee.holloway@gcpsk12.org](mailto:shenee.holloway@gcpsk12.org)

**Kelly Raymond**, PIC at Alford Elementary School  
*Contributor*

## Parent Communication Tip



Use a Google Doc or Excel Spreadsheet (while keeping the same format as the Parent & Community Outreach Log) to log parental interactions. This will help to quickly search and locate parent contact information regarding who made the connection, especially as you may be contacting parents more frequently during these time.



## Thank you to this month's contributors



**Wrae Croom**



**Milena Fuentes**



**Shenée Holloway**



**Dena Jones**



**José Tijerina**

**Michelle Moody**

**Kelly Raymond**



**Megan Roedl**