



EFFECTS OF READING THROUGH PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

19 March 2021

Bailey Nkuna

bailey@nect.org.za

It is through reading that parents can be effectively involved in getting their children education and in their up brining. Parents have an obligation to nurture their children into successful future that will develop the country through education and guidance, take us through the covid-19 pandemic that has attacked the whole world, and to prepare them into effective citizens of the Republic of South Africa as well as the entire world.

Parental involvement takes many forms including good parenting in the home, the provision of a secure and stable environment, intellectual stimulation, parent-child discussion, good models of constructive social and educational values and high aspirations relating to personal fulfilment and good citizenship; contact with schools to share information; participation in school events; participation in the work of the school through volunteerism; and participation in school governance. The unfounded myth is that parental involvement depends on the parents’ income, level of education and employment status. Parents who read can support their children’s education both at home and at school, irrespective of their status.

The guiding principles of effective parent readers are:

- i. Having high expectations of the child, without being rigid and unforgiving
- ii. Being reasonable about rules and obedience
- iii. Putting emphasis on decision making, and
- iv. Displaying sharp listening skills

It should be noted that the child’s outcome is broadly conceived. While it includes attainment in tests, it also refers to a wide range of attitudes, values, and knowledge which, taken together, help sustain a commitment to lifelong learning and good citizenship. The following illustrate basic values taught at home and their related outcomes, as reflected in the NECT Parent module:

BASIC VALUE	WHAT THE PARENT TEACHES	CHILD’S IMMEDIATE OUTCOME
Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish household routines ▪ Keep family calendar ▪ Teach the child how to use “free time” ▪ Teach them the importance of reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Child develops daily routines ✓ Has an orderly schedule of events ✓ Creates space for fun time
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get the child to clean own mess ▪ Provide routines and structure ▪ Demonstrate what must be done and how It must be done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Child volunteers to assist others ✓ Helps with chores around the house ✓ Knows what must be done, by when, and does it
Patience and Tolerance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anger is the enemy of patience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Does not easily get angry and frustrated with others at home



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stay calm, smile and tackle problems with positivity ▪ Turn waiting into a game 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Child views minor setbacks as lessons ✓ Child learns not to interrupt
Time Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set a bedtime ▪ Prioritise important tasks ▪ Turn major tasks into habits ▪ Create buffer time between tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Child always on time, and always aware of time ✓ S/he eliminates distractions ✓ Child concentrates on results, rather than being busy
Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ View team as an entity ▪ Value information sharing ▪ Nurture a sense of accountability among team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enjoys and works well with others to get things done ✓ Showing willingness to learn from one another ✓ Sharing progress, struggles, challenges, and successes with team members

The above values clearly articulate that what happens at school, depends on what happens at home. Success at home, leads to success at school, and a well-rounded child at home will be a well-rounded and successful reader at school. Parents can support their children’s school success by providing a home environment that fosters readiness to learn, by rearing children in positive ways, providing them with healthcare and nutritious meals, and ensuring regular school attendance. A little parental involvement in school might go a very long way as a conduit of information about curriculum, courses, school rules, and assessments, through which teachers and parents alike can work to support the child.