



Increasing Parental Involvement in ELL Families

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KWL Chart

- Activity #1
- First, complete the first two columns of the KWL chart by writing what you know and want to know about ELLs, ELL families, and barriers that ELL families face.
- Then, we will share with the group.

Name _____ **K.W.L Chart** Date _____

Topic _____

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Have Learned

Agenda

- KWL Chart
- ELL Overview
- Barriers
- The importance of family involvement
- Strategies for increasing involvement in ELL families
- Case Studies
- Content and Resources

Objectives

- (1) I can define and identify who ELLs are.
- (2) I can explain the barriers that prevent parental involvement in ELL families.
- (3) I can demonstrate strategies that increase parental involvement.

ELLs Overview

- What it stands for
ELL: English Language Learner
- The ELL population has grown in U.S. public schools over the past decade according to the National Center for Education Statistics (2023).
- ELLs are a diverse group of students. Their native language is usually not English, therefore, they can have limited proficiency in English (Garrett & Plevyak, 2018).

Importance of Family involvement

- ELLs achieve academic and linguistic success when parents are involved in their education and school (Kalaycı & Ergül, 2020; Kim, 2018; Tinajero et al., 2023).
- Parental involvement helps increase their child's engagement, decreases problem behaviors, and enhances academic accomplishments (Kalaycı & Öz, 2018).
- ELL family involvement is crucial because students will have positive attitudes towards school, and it increases student motivation and attendance (Kalaycı & Ergül, 2020; Vera, et, al. 2012).

Barriers

- Language Barriers
- Socioeconomic Status
- ELL Parents Lack of Formal Education
- ELL Parents Unfamiliarity With How The Educational System Works
- Cultural Beliefs

Language barrier

- The highest reported barrier that families of ELLs face is language.
- A lack of English proficiency can result in a lack of parental involvement (Harper & Pelletier, 2010).
- due to linguistic factors, families of ELLs struggle with communication, find it challenging to build relationships with school personnel, and overall have difficulty with being involved in their child's education and school (Antony-Newman, 2019).
- ELLs with families that are not proficient in English show less involvement in their child's education and school (He & Thompson, 2022).

Immigration Status

- Lack of legal documentation (Parsons & Shim's, 2019)
- ELL families fear deportation and exposure to the government (Soutullo et al., 2016,

Socioeconomic status

- Many families of ELLs work low-paying occupations and are more likely to work longer hours, work night shifts, or have multiple jobs in order to provide for their families

(Antony-Newman, 2019).
- Occupations prevent families of ELLs from being involved because they do not have spare time to attend parent-teacher conferences, school functions, and volunteer opportunities.

Lack of Formal Education

- Many families of ELLs lack a formal education and experience an interrupted education (Vera et al., 2017).
- ELL families might lack knowledge of school policies and rules

Unfamiliarity With How The Educational System Works

- Many families of ELLs are not familiar with the education system (Antony-Newman, 2019).
- This unfamiliarity leads to a lack of involvement because these families do not have an awareness of their child's school's expectations, policies, rules, and curricula which makes it difficult to be involved because they are doubtful about how to be involved (Antony-Newman, 2019).

Cultural Beliefs

- Different cultures and countries = different cultural beliefs (Ramirez, 2003)
- A belief that interfering with a teacher's teaching is considered disrespectful, so ELL families avoid being involved (Curtis et al., 2021)
- Many ELL families come from a culture that discourages involvement in their child's learning.

KWL Chart

- Completion of activity #1
- Complete the last column of the KWL chart
- Turn and talk with a partner about what you learned

Name _____ K.W.L Chart Date _____
Topic _____

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Have Learned

Language barrier

- We will listen to a 2 minute video about a speaker discussing ways to help ELL families overcome the language barrier.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZXhlmoouaQ>

- You will take notes during the video
- After the video, we will discuss the strategies that can help ELL families overcome the language barrier as a group.
- What additional ideas or strategies on helping ELL families overcome the language barrier do you have?

Strategies to increase ELL families involvement

- Send home bilingual newsletters and important notes, documents, and emails in English as well as ELL families' native language (Parsons & Shim, 2019; Premo et al., 2023).
- Having translators/ Interpreters during conferences and school functions (Premo et al., 2023)
- Home visits (Kalaycı & Ergül, 2020)
- Teacher training (Kalaycı & Ergül, 2020)
- Keep consistent communication with ELL parents and encourage them to volunteer and partake in family and social events, and parent-teacher conferences in school (Parsons & Shim, 2019).

Case Studies

- Activity #2
- You will work in a group of four to read a case study.
- Each group will have a different case study.
- You will determine the barrier the ELL families face and come up with a strategy to increase their involvement in their child's learning and school.
- Take 5-10 minutes and we will come back together, read each case study, and discuss your ideas and thoughts as a group.

Case Study #1

- Please read through the case study with your group. Work together to answer what barrier the ELL family might be facing and a strategy to increase the family's involvement.

Case Study #1

Roberto is a third-grade newcomer and moved from Mexico to the United States with his family a month ago. He struggles to understand content and does not participate in class. When he does participate in class he usually speaks in his native language (Spanish). The teacher wants to learn more about Roberto and his background in hopes to help him in school. The teacher has tried several times to contact his family for information but the family never responds.

What barrier might Roberto's family be facing? _____

What strategies can you use to increase Roberto's family involvement?

Case Study #2

- Please read through the case study with your group. Work together to answer what barrier the ELL family might be facing and a strategy to increase the family's involvement.

Case Study #2

Maria is an entering ELL in 9th grade and has experienced an interrupted education because her family has moved several times during the school year. She struggles socially and academically and is having a hard time adjusting to school. She does not engage or participate much during class. The teacher wants to reach out to Maria's parents to learn more about her and how to engage her in class but hasn't been able to connect with them. The teacher has attempted to reach out to her parents/caregivers via email and telephone with no success. The teacher has spoken to Maria about her home life and she has mentioned that her parents are not usually not home till late at night.

What barrier might Maria's family be facing? _____

What strategies can you use to increase Maria's family involvement?

Case Study #3

- Please read through the case study with your group. Work together to answer what barrier the ELL family might be facing and a strategy to increase the family's involvement.

Case Study #3

Juan is an emerging ELL in 5th grade. He is struggling with reading comprehension, therefore, his teacher wants to reach out to his parents to discuss how he is doing in school. Whenever the teacher sends emails and letters or makes phone calls, his parents never respond. The teacher also notices that when important documents are sent online for parents to fill out in regard to their child's education or volunteer opportunities, Juan's parents never fill them out.

What barrier might Juan's family be facing? _____

What strategies can you use to increase Juan's family involvement?

Whole group activity



Let's discuss the case studies together!

Outcome from the PD

- The outcome of this PD is for teachers to gain knowledge about who ELLs are and to be aware of the barriers that can affect ELL families' involvement in their child's learning and school.
- Teachers will have a better understanding of strategies and approaches that can help increase parental involvement in ELL families.

Time for questions!

- Do you have any questions?



Exit ticket

- Complete the exit ticket and answer the question, “What did you learn today from this PD”?

Name: _____ number: _____ Title: _____

Exit Ticket

What did you learn today?

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Handout

- You will receive a handout with additional strategies on how to increase parental involvement in ELL families.

20 Ideas for Increasing Parental Involvement			
<p>Open House Welcome your parents at the beginning of the year in style. Have well planned activities for parent/child that help you learn about the family.</p>	<p>Online Connection Create a blog to share information with your parents. If email works well to communicate, create addresses to share a weekly newsletter of events and class fun.</p>	<p>Share Let your parents and students know about you, your family, your pets, your hobbies, and your goals for the year.</p>	<p>Photos Collect and share photos of the kids in action. Keeping a class photo album helps parents feel involved in the daily happenings of your room.</p>
<p>Sign-Ups Have sign up sheets with your needs available for your parents to see at school events. Sign up sheets is a great way to involve your parents and remind them.</p>	<p>Keep it Fun Arrange social events for your class where families can get to know each other. It can be a picnic, meal at the park or a Sevens Party for doing a teacher's favorite subjects have practiced.</p>	<p>Phone a Family Try to phone your families to share positive news periodically throughout the year. Parents love hearing positives.</p>	<p>Parent Involvement Projects Plan family projects that are simple and fun, but that are inclusive. Wrap in non-work activities so that they aren't overwhelming to the family.</p>
<p>Buddy System Pair up your students for times when they have questions at home and need a quick answer. They may also be carpooling partners for times a student may need a ride to school for field trips.</p>	<p>Not My Be more to give plenty of notice for special events. Schedules can be hectic, but with advanced planning seat can arrange to be there.</p>	<p>Be Inclusive Each family has unique needs and may not have had the same prior experience with school. Make them feel valued no matter how they may or may not be involved. They may decide to become involved with encouragement.</p>	<p>Thank You Notes Be sure to thank parents when they attend events or do volunteer for you. A personal message means a lot.</p>
<p>Team Building Send out a survey to each family to see what interests and skills your parents have to offer. Have the list available for times you need to call on help.</p>	<p>Get Techy Teaches many parents use Facebook, texting, and other apps make it able to help a parent group where you can post messages and reminders. There are apps available to send messages exactly to groups, one that will help parents keep informed.</p>	<p>Spread the Love Instead of one room notice, let parents sign up to lead different events. That way, one subject isn't over-represented.</p>	<p>Special Events Plan special events to help parents help at home. Schedule offering of biscuits, food, and transportation to make it easy on the family to come.</p>
<p>Parent Perceptions Invite the parents to write the parents to let them what would make it easier for them to do so.</p>	<p>Student of the Week Assign each student a week to be special. During that week, highlight further on a bulletin board and have the parent come for lunch.</p>	<p>Story Reader and Art Helper Set aside a 30 minute block of time for parents to come and read to your students. If time is short, alternate between readers and art help.</p>	<p>Inform Share research with parents about the importance of being involved. By doing this, you are sending the message that you want them to be part of your team and value them.</p>

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