



ENGAGING PARENTS

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2008 Grantee – GET SMART AT Alta Sita Elementary

Venise Davis-Scott: We engage parents; our first beginning would be the PTA. We try to get them on board. We offer certain incentives for parents to get involved in the program. We offer the events that the parents can attend, too, along with their child.

Jamie Stang: If you want to get parents and community members involved, it has to be something that they are involved with from the beginning. So ideally, they've been involved in the planning process, but if they haven't, they need some sense of ownership.

Sara Veben-Mortenson: The issue of self-interest, what is it that would motivate a parent to be involved, and in that, how can you have them visualize, understand, and be motivated to participate, and how can you illustrate that, and how can you have them experience that?

Jamie Stang: And whether that's giving them a particular piece of something to do, so it's to go out and develop this or just put together a group, but somehow to develop that sense of ownership I think is the real key, whether it's parents or community members. They need to feel that it is their program, not that they are working for somebody else's program.

Venise Davis-Scott: We have fun with everything. We have fun with the parents, we have fun with the teachers, fun with the kids, and it shows. It shows when we have our events. It shows when we they do the CATCH curriculum, and so it's just one of those things that we have that we can say, okay, the parents are backing us up, the school officials are backing us, and then the kids most of all are having fun, and they are backing it. And they like to see it again, and then there's also that word of mouth. When one school finds out, okay, they had this, we want this, how do we get this? And then they contact us and say, you know, we'd like to have that same program that you gave the other school.

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Champions For Healthy Kids
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