

Evaluation

- Discuss as a staff what worked, what needs improvement, and impressions of the event. Have staff complete the:
 - Post-Visit Dialog for Staff Porch Visits
 - Porch Visit Reflections
- Discuss visits with parents and students during the first week of school.
- Make sure that your parent involvement team reviews staff feedback and collects information for future planning.



Resources

The *Parent Involvement Guide to Porch Visits* and accompanying tools and order forms are available on the Parent Involvement portal.

- 🔗 Order form for Porch Visit materials.
- 🔗 Materials for packets are available at the PTR Center (cards, candy, pencils, erasers, bags, etc.).
- 🔗 Porch Visit forms:
 - Pre-Visit Dialog for Staff
 - Tips for Successful Porch Visits
 - Post-Visit Dialog for Staff Porch Visits
 - Porch Visit Reflection
- 🔗 Book bibliography with home visit research.

Sample Evaluation from Families at a USD 259 Elementary School

Families who were home and returned the evaluation card.

- 99.5% stated that they enjoyed our visit.
- 94% stated that the visit helped get their child excited about coming to school.
- 97% said that they found the Porch Visit information helpful.

Below are some parent comments.

The visit was great. My child is now very excited about going back to school. Thank you.

I think it was nice to have been welcomed in person.

Thank you for taking the time to come out for the kids.

Keep up the good work and the personal touch. It was really a pleasant surprise. It made my child feel special and important ...

Thank you! Your visit made me see that the staff is caring and concerned for the kids.

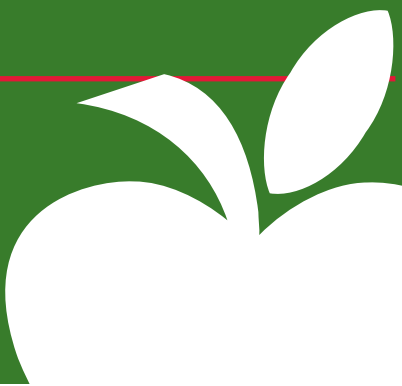
Something to Remember

“Building positive connections with parents through Porch Visits is a great opportunity to make a positive first impression.”

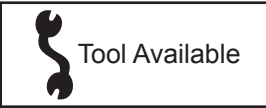
Elementary Principal

a parent involvement guide to ...

Porch Visits



- Porch Visits Defined
- Suggested Goals
- What’s Your Vision?
- Best Practices
- Considerations for Planning
- Evaluation
- Resources



Parent Involvement Guide to Porch Visits is produced by the Parent and Community Connection Team of Wichita Public Schools.

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Porch Visits Defined

Porch Visits are used by school staff to extend a “Welcome Back,” shortly before students return to school. Porch Visits are quick, easy, friendly versions of home visits. These visits truly occur on the porch or curb, not in families’ homes.

Porch Visits allow staff the opportunity to welcome and develop positive rapport with families by showing personal interest and appreciation for the school community. Additional objectives include building relationships between school and home, as well as making positive first impressions with staff.



“It really made the kids feel special when you came to our home. Thank you. This was our first porch visit.”

Elementary School Parent

Porch Visits are:	Porch Visits are not:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting families on their “turf.”• Porch, sidewalk, or driveway visits.• School staff making a first positive connection.• A fresh start/clean slate for every student.• A chance to convey the need for home-school partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A chance to discuss history.• A time for lengthy conversations.• An opportunity to judge.• Enrollment visits.• A time to sit down and visit inside the home.

Suggested Goals

- Welcome families to the school community.
- Initiate positive, friendly customer service.
- Distribute information and promote upcoming events.
- Generate excitement for the coming year.
- Communicate staff involvement and support.
- Promote parent engagement and home support.
- Establish positive communication with families early in the school year.

Best Practices

- Develop a checklist that includes who is responsible for:
 - Organizing routes.
 - Planning and assembly of packet contents.
 - Conducting a pre-visit dialog with staff.
 - Ensuring staff members are given materials (such as paper and pencils) to jot down notes and comments from families.
 - Providing cold bottles of water and snacks for staff.
- Advertise the dates and times of Porch Visits with posters and flyers during enrollment.
- 🐘 Provide parents with a Porch Visit Reminder Postcard during enrollment.
- Ensure all materials are translated.

What’s Your Vision?

One of the benefits of Porch Visits is that they can be customized to fit the needs of each school. The design of Porch Visits should be influenced, in large part, by the goals and desires of your school staff.

- Invite community business partners to support Porch Visits by providing items for bags or snacks and water for staff.
- Sort “routes” for visits by street and house number for staff convenience.
- It is beneficial to have all student and parent names for each address listed on the route cards.
- Create door hangers with the teacher’s photo and contact information to distribute or to leave on the door.
- Stagger the time of day to reach most families.
- Schedule a session with staff to discuss purpose, goals and procedures.
- Have staff wear their district badges, name tags or school t-shirts for identification purposes.

“Porch Visits brought connecting with students and parents to a more personal level.”
Elementary Staff

“Many parents and students were at their doors waiting!”
Elementary Staff

Considerations for Planning

This is a basic list for Porch Visit planning. Please feel free to alter the list to fit your needs.

- ☐ Have we established a date and time for Porch Visits?
- ☐ Will we visit all families? One grade level? Students new to the school?
- ☐ Who will be responsible for planning the visits?
- ☐ What information do we need to schedule or establish porch visit routes?

- ☐ Which staff members will be involved (classroom teachers, specials teachers, support or office staff)?
- ☐ What information do we want to include in packets?
- ☐ Are there any local businesses that could provide free items to place in bags?
- ☐ Should school district media be contacted?
- ☐ How will we inform parents of our visits?
- ☐ How will we inform and train staff?

- ☐ How will staff concerns about Porch Visits be identified and addressed?
- ☐ What do we want to communicate to families during our visits?
- ☐ If families are not home during Porch Visits, will we contact them at a later date, or will we leave the packet at the door?
- ☐ How will we follow-up with staff?
- ☐ What evaluation information do we want to collect?