



Pre-Visit Dialog For Staff

Connecting With Families

Porch Visit Purpose:

To develop trust and rapport with families by meeting them on “their own turf” where they feel more comfortable and empowered.

Porch Visit Goals:

- Welcome families to the school community
- Establish rapport and put family at ease
- Observe families’ general home environment and focus attention on family
- Distribute information
- Communicate staff involvement and staff support
- Promote parent involvement and home support

Porch Visits Benefit All

1. Porch visits are a unique opportunity to establish positive communication between home and school.
2. Early visits show how eager teachers, principals, and school staff are to work with all families.
3. Porch visits increase teachers’ understanding of their students by seeing them in their home environment.
4. Parents who are uncomfortable coming to the school may feel more at ease and be able to tell us how we can help them be involved in their children’s education.
5. Building positive relationships with students and families leads to better academic achievement, improved attendance, improved discipline and increased parent involvement.
6. Home visits offer vast rewards including exposure to the richness and variety of many cultures, the hospitality extended by families, and the chance to share a brief slice of life with the families of the children we work with everyday.