

Monitoring the Learning Environment

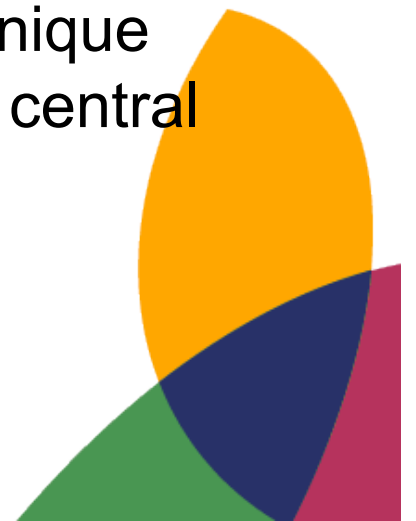
Purpose

To demonstrate the role of technology as an enabler of parental involvement to enhance student performance and development



Major Influences on children's development

- Parents, the broader family
- Peer groups
- Community/neighborhood influences
- Institutions such as schools and other bodies (e.g. churches, clubs)
- The children themselves, of course, with their unique abilities, temperaments and propensities play a central role in forming and reforming their behaviour, aspirations and achievements



Defining Parental Involvement

- Visits to school (*technology cannot replace this*)
- Gather relevant information (*technology can help*)
- Establish good relationships with teachers (*technology can help*)
- Discussions with teachers to keep abreast of the child's progress or to discuss emergent problems (*technology can help*)
- Assisting more broadly in the practical activities and governance of the school (*technology can help*)





The Impact of Parental Involvement

- A great deal of the variation in students' achievement is outside of the schools' influence (*Sui-Chu and Williams, 1996*)
 - Parental involvement in the form of home discussion (*asking about and checking home work, what happened at school today*) has a major impact on achievement
- Parental involvement in the form of 'at-home good parenting' has a significant positive effect on children's achievement and adjustment (discussions, homework review)



The Impact of Parental Involvement

- The achievement of working class pupils could be significantly enhanced if we systematically apply all that is known about parental involvement
- Most of the studies already quoted show that parental involvement **acted out in the school confers little or no benefit on the individual child**
- **At-home parental involvement clearly and consistently has significant effects on pupil achievement and adjustment which far outweigh other forms of involvement**



The Big Question?

- How can technology help in empowering parents to play their role
 - School Administration Software
 - Parents Portal



Parents Portal

- ParentsWeb provides access to: -
Attendance - Daily Grades -
Progress Reports - Report Cards -
Transcripts - Lesson Plans



Parents Portal

- Homework - Missing Assignments -
Discipline - Staff & School Directory
- Teacher Email Addresses -
Teacher Websites - Customized Web
Surveys & Tests • Parents see only their
children's information



Benefits

- **Enhanced communication with parents**
- **Stronger parental involvement**
- **Improved student participation**
- **Reduced surprises at report card time**

