

NATIONAL PARENT LEADERSHIP MONTH

February 2016



We encourage you to use the following Talking Points to promote National Parent Leadership Month. These talking points are meant to inform and inspire parents to take on leadership roles in their communities, as well as recognize parents for their dedication to their families to help children grow up healthy, happy, and strong.

TALKING POINTS:

National Parent Leadership Month is a time to give recognition and celebrate parents for all they do for their families. This is also a good opportunity to raise public awareness about the vital roles that parents play in the development of children. Studies show that parent involvement in programs can lead to higher program success rate. When programs respond to parents' ideas and new strategies, they have been seen to have higher attendance and more engagement from children and teens.* We believe that parent involvement is a huge stepping stone on the road to a child's success.

National Parent Leadership Month provides a platform to notify parent leaders of opportunities to become more involved in their communities. The involvement of Parent Leaders is a critical step toward recognizing the needs and viewpoints of parents at the community level. Studies show that only 42% of parents volunteer or serve on a committee at their child's school.* Let's work collaboratively to move the dial and increase parent involvement in activities to support their children.

Involvement in Parent Leadership opportunities improves parents' self-esteem and gives a feeling of personal achievement. The knowledge and skills that Parent Leaders acquire can open new doors for opportunity, including employment. Research shows that 70% of jobs are gained through personal relationships.* Parents who are more involved in the community create an advantage for themselves with the experience gained and personal connections that are made. Opportunities like these, not only enhances parents' well-being, but also the well-being of the entire family unit.

Parent Leadership plays an important role in strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect. Becoming a Parent Leader allows parents to make social connections with other adults, providing them with a solid support system. Parent leaders also offer mentoring opportunities for children from other families. Studies show that children positively influenced by parents and other adults are less likely to have behavior problems and are less likely to have depression.* Parent Leadership offers parents and children the opportunity to grow and learn to make families stronger, happier, and healthier.

Parent Leadership means providing parents with the knowledge and skills to be positive role models and to impact their families and communities in a positive way. As parents become more involved in their communities, so do their children. Children of Parent Leaders are more likely to take on leadership roles in school, sports and other activities due to the positive influence from their parents' leadership roles. Studies show that over 60% of children that live in communities with high parental involvement participate in sports and/or volunteer work.* This involvement elicits social and emotional connections which enhances children's developmental process.



SOURCES:

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[Child Trends (2007). Building, Engaging, and Supporting Family and Parental Involvement in Out-of-School Time Programs. Available at: <http://www.childtrends.org/?publications=building-engaging-and-supporting-family-and-parental-involvement-in-out-of-school-time-programs#sthash.FiUTXQGf.dpuf>]