

curious Parents

Delaware Valley

February 2003 • www.curiousparents.com

Better Parenting, **BETTER GRADES**

By Dr. Morton Tener

Data collected from the National Center for Education indicate that students whose parents are most involved with their lives tend to be students with the highest marks in school.

Students were asked the extent to which their parents monitored their activities (knew where they were and what they were doing.)

GRADE	% Of Parental Involvement
A	88%
B	81%
C	72%
D	61%

Teachers and educators frequently cite the importance of parental involvement in the learning process. Parents who monitor their child's homework, for example, reinforce the importance placed on homework by teachers, which may result in higher scholastic performance.

Other factors correlated to higher performance are a two parent household, how often students talked to their parents, parental attendance at PTA meetings, and parents keeping close track of how well a child does in school.

Parents often ask whether there is a relationship between school success and economic status. It was determined that

the relationship between school grades and parental influence was much the same regardless of socioeconomic status. The findings remain that parental involvement has a positive relationship to student grades.

The following is a short checklist describing different ways parents can get involved:

- Encourage extracurricular activities
- Early intervention if a problem arises
- School program involvement
- School/Community partnership
- Monitor child's achievement
- Offer classroom resources

The responsibility for the social and emotional development of children should be shared by the parents, the school and the community with the biggest factors in the equation being the parents and family. ☆

Dr. Morton Tener is in his 34th year at Glassboro State-Rowan University and his 45th year in New Jersey education. Prior to coming to Glassboro-Rowan University he was a teacher, basketball coach, guidance counselor, vice-principal and camp director in different school districts in South Jersey. Out of all the educational experiences, his greatest love is working with student teachers.