

Alice Coachman Elementary School
Albany, Georgia



TRANSCRIPT: “PARENT INVOLVEMENT”

PAT VICTOR, PRINCIPAL: Involvement is not parents coming out working in the classroom, making bulletin boards and that kind of stuff -- it's coming to workshops. Our parent coordinator actually does workshops on how to help your child to be successful. This was measured based on the participation at PTO workshops because they have to sign in and she has seen an increase over the years of parents actually coming for parent teacher conferences, they sign in for that. So this measures their involvement and as you can see, it's going up.

PARENT VOICES: Ask Alice Coachman, it's a lot of involvement with the parents that's been involved with the teacher and the kids also and it's very educational because you will learn. Your kid knows some things that he didn't know and I have learned that and I did some things at home, “do you really know how to do this?” and he replied yes, Ms. Wyatt showed me how to do this. So being involved with the school and with your kid at the same time at the school, it will teach you a whole lot and you will find out a lot.

My baby, being in kindergarten, his homework assignments I don't even have to tell him what to do because he can look at it and he will say we practiced this in class and he will know what to do with it. The letter sounds, I was telling him this was the right way and then he said, no, this is how to do it. And I agreed this *is* how to do it.

I Care Program, I really do enjoy and with Ms. Hall doing the I Care Program with us she teaches us a lot and tells us a lot of what is going on with the students and the teachers and the program helps you learn more about what to learn, what they need to know, what they need to have, and it's just a good program. We are doing it now. I have done it and it helped me out a whole lot that I don't have to sit there and ask him what did you do in class because in the I Care Program Workshop I can go online and see what they are doing in class, how the grades are and what the behaviors are like. All that is on the I Care also.

We recently had a math night here where all grade levels participated in doing activities that involve math. And when you went into the different classrooms you work on the parents competing against the students, so that was really a grand occasion.

The parent workshop also let us know how our child is doing in class, how they are performing, and how their grades are. I learned how to do 101 with my daughter, how to put problems together for her. It helped me a lot.

TEACHER VOICES: The parents work together, as far as parent teacher organizations we have different paths that leaders of that organization, they come in and give their different feedback on what is going on. We have a lot of parents that come in and volunteer on that team. They even head the different parent teacher organization meetings. We have a parent that comes in and she will introduce the minutes, finances. Parents are very involved in our school.

Parents are stakeholders of our school. We send home a newsletter home at the end of every 9 weeks. Anything that is going on in the school parents will always receive letters about it and we also send home weekly folders so parents are always involved and they know what is going on in the school.

PAT VICTOR, PRINCIPAL: If you don't get parents on board, we can work extremely hard all day long but parents are the child's first teacher and they have to be involved too. We kind of demand that involvement. That was one piece that I really think that helped us to be successful.