FAMILY INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

Families are an important part of the Fishback Center for Early Childhood Education. We welcome families to participate in the program as much as desired. If you are interested in participating in classroom functions, trips, or sharing ideas with the class, let your child’s lab instructor know. All offers of involvement are welcome! How may you become involved? Below are a few ways. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. If you have other ideas for involvement, please let us know.

A. **Providing information about your child at arrival time.** Please tell us how your child’s day is going so far. What kind of a night did she/he have? When was the last time he/she ate? How much? Anything else we should know about?

B. **Observe your child at play.** Families are encouraged to observe their child in the classroom as often as possible. We feel that our observation booths provide families with a unique opportunity to see their children interacting with others outside of the family. Please plan to observe at least once per semester. We do ask that all children who accompany you into the observation booths remain under your supervision at all times.

C. **Visit your child's classroom.** We love to have family members visit our classrooms. We often ask family members to help with classroom activities, such as face painting, sharing a talent during group time, or discussing with the children what you do in your occupation. Because we have such tremendous student support in our classrooms, we do not ask for family involvement on a daily basis, but you are always welcome. If you have an idea or something you would like to share with your child’s class, please talk with your child’s lab instructor.

D. **Assist with field trips.** We plan approximately three field trips per class per semester. They include walking field trips where we need parents to help us by holding children’s hands and walking with the children. On field trips that need transportation, we often ask families to drop off and pick up their children at the field trip site. On riding field trips, we need parents to help us by staying with the class during the field trip. We always solicit family members’ help in advance. As adults, we find the field trips just as educational for us as they are for the children.

E. **Participating in Family Nights.** Family nights have different topics including: curriculum discussions, small group work sharing, material explorations to share what the children are doing at school, or project nights to work on a specific project. During all of these Family Nights, please share your ideas and comments.

F. **Parent Advisory Council.** The Parent Advisory Council has a representative from each school class. In addition, there are two at-large positions. It serves in a family advisory capacity rather than a governing board. The Fishback Center is led by the Center Director with input by the Early Childhood Education faculty and the Teaching, Learning, and Leadership Dept. Head. The Parent Advisory Council’s functions include reviewing the Parent Handbook, providing formal feedback, developing ideas and projects for improvement, working to involve families in the program by planning center-wide activities, and assisting where/when needed. Please join this council, if you are interested, and share your ideas and talents.

G. **Participating in Committees.** Each year there are committees in need of parent and family members’ input. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please indicate on the family involvement information handout and questionnaire and please inform your mentor teacher.

H. **Library Donations.** Because of heavy usage of the children’s books from our resource library, we are always in need of quality, gently used or new children’s books to add to our collection. You may bring in book donations at any time. If you desire, you can make a note inside the front cover of donated books.
I. **Home Help Requests.** As teachers plan for the curriculum, they may have requests regarding preparation which may be completed at home or at school. These requests may also include collecting items to bring into a classroom, like recyclable items that can be used in classroom activities and art projects. Please periodically check the Family Involvement Binder of the Family Table near the front desk to see the most recent requests.

J. **Parent photographers.** We are looking for parent photographers to take pictures of classroom happenings and events. The pictures would be used for portfolios, the web site, classroom display, and documentation panels. The SDSU Laboratory School would provide either a digital camera with disks or 35mm camera and film. The parent would donate time and talent for this project. Any documentation to accompany the photos (i.e., what was happening when the photo was taken) would also be appreciated. We would also be interested in pictures of parent meetings and adult-child interactions.

K. **Family Recipes for Snacks.** We are looking for help in expanding our snack menu to include recipes of foods you typically eat at home, recipes that are family traditions or from your family culture. We are seeking recipes that are moderate to easy in complexity and that could be eaten in snack portions. If you have a recipe that you would like to share within the preschool labs, please contact Deb Schaefer, our cook.

L. **Family Member Interest or Talent Share.** We invite family members to share interests and talents with the center. At the family table, there is a binder which has Interest/Talent Forms. If you are interested in sharing an interest or a talent with the center, please complete the form and put it in the communication binder. This binder is sought out when new projects and classroom requests are made.

M. **Social Advocate.** Families who are interested have the opportunity to host social events for interested families. Social events could include such things as playing Bunko, creating “play-dates” for their children, going out to eat, dining in, and/or any other “fun”, social event they wish.

N. **Snack assistants.** This opportunity is for individuals interested in assisting the labs by setting up the afternoon snack carts and/or cleaning the kitchen after completion of afternoon snack. Times would vary upon afternoon labs schedules, please see your lab team for further details.

O. **Organizational monitor.** This individual would assist with the maintenance and organization of the lab’s materials. Duties could include replacing, organizing, and/or ensuring proper care of materials. Times would vary upon labs schedules, please see your lab team for further details.

P. **Webmaster.** This would be for an individual who likes to work on the creation of websites and is familiar with FrontPage. Duties could include inserting pictures and/or video clips, updating information periodically, and ensuring a professional, general upkeep of the website appearance.

Q. **Ink Cartridge & Phone Donator.** We are collecting used ink cartridges and old cell phones as a fundraiser. If you have any you would like to donate, we would be happy to recycle them for you.

R. **Hy-Vee Receipts.** We are also collecting Hy-Vee receipts as a fundraiser. Please keep your receipts and turn them in to us.

S. **Front Desk Receptionist.** We are looking for volunteers to sit at our front desk and be our greeter to visitors by welcoming them into the school, helping direct people to the correct locations, and keep a list of visitors. If interested, please let your lab instructor know.

T. **Clothing Donator.** We are always in need of old clothing your child may not need anymore. We have accidents, spills, messy art activities, etc. that require the use of extra clothing such as; pants, shirts, socks, and underwear. Since it is SD and the weather is unpredictable, we also need extra hats, gloves, boots, snow pants, coats, and scarves.