

# + Family Training

Fall 2020 Session 1

## The Role of Families

- Effective student programming requires a cooperative approach with families and educational providers
- Parents are considered to be full and equal members
- Family members have unique knowledge of a child's strengths, struggles and development
- Family members can support the child across all environments including the home, school, and community

## Benefits of Family Involvement

### Benefits for Students

- Improves school readiness, social skills, and student achievement
- Leads to improved attitudes about school and higher academic performance
- Increases rates for student attendance and graduation

### Benefits for Families

- Empowers families to have an active role in the child's education
- Increases confidence to extend learning opportunities in the home and community settings

### Benefits for Teachers

- Helps with planning for instruction
- Increases understanding of a child's family, culture, and community

## Effective Family Communication

### Flexible

- Inform the school team about the method of communication the is best for you
- A combination of various methods may be needed

### Open

- Open, two-way communication is ideal
  - The school team shares information with families
  - Families share information with the school team
- Strong communication provides consistent contact

### Informative

- Keeps families informed about a child's specific program and progress
- The school team may share specific skills:
  - Being taught
  - That have been mastered

## Types of Communication

### Written

- Any message that is sent electronically or on paper
- Examples: newsletters, notebook, skill summary sheet, website, emails, ClassDojo, RemindApp

### Real Time

- Involves speaking to another person "live"
- Examples: phone calls, in person conferences, video calls

## Next Steps

- Make it a habit to read the communication
- Sign your initials or send a brief response
- Make comments, ask questions, and provide feedback
- Extend learning opportunities into the home and community settings
- Provide extra practice with the skills that are being learned in school

Stay tuned for more training during our Fall 2020 Family Training Series!

## Check In

### Real Time

- Involves speaking to another person “live”
- Occurs at the beginning of a session
- Goals of “check in” are to:
  - Review plans for the instruction
  - “Check in” on happenings since last session
  - Briefly discuss the current circumstances that may affect the session
  - Briefly discuss any questions or concerns before the instructional session begins
  - Provide time for the instructor to adjust session plans

## Coaching and Support

### Real Time

- Involves speaking to another person “live”
- Instructor provides in the moment suggestions, feedback, and ideas
- Goal is to adjust what is occurring in the moment and improve learning and results in the moment

## Debriefing After a Session

### Real Time

- Involves speaking to another person “live”
- Generally occurs at the end of a session
- Goals of debriefing are to:
  - Briefly discuss the session that just occurred
  - Plan for next instructional session
  - Provide time for training, coaching, and problem solving

## Additional Resources: Reading SD – Parent Academy

### Coming Soon: “Family Training for K-12 Autism Support”

### Recordings from all live sessions

The screenshot shows the Reading School District website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home Access Center, School Menus, Find My School, and #RSDproud. The main navigation menu has links for REOPENING RSD, OUR DISTRICT, SCHOOLS, DEPARTMENTS, FAMILIES (highlighted with a yellow circle), STAFF, and SCHOOL BOARD. Under the FAMILIES menu, the Parent Academy link is also highlighted with a yellow circle. A sidebar menu on the left lists various resources including Attendance Policy, District Forms, School Menus, Translation Services, Grades (Home Access), Bus Routes, Enrollment, School Uniform Policy, Volunteer, Activities & Resources, Community Resources, Guidance Center, Sumdog Login, Working Papers, Class Dojo, Dental Center, Reading Eggs Login, Title I Right to Know Letter, Clever Portal, District Calendar, School Library Catalog, and Transcripts. A yellow box on the right contains the website URL: [www.readingsd.org](http://www.readingsd.org). At the bottom, there is a banner for the Red Knight program with the text "Reading School District is Red Knight proud" and a "Learn More" link.