# Family Training

## 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 that 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

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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**

www.readingsd.org