

Parenting Partner Poudre School District Larimer County, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Poudre School District serves 30,000 students in the Larimer County area, and has seen an increase in the number of students enrolled in dual language and multicultural programs. With the growing number of international families, the district has recognized the challenges that they may face when navigating a new language, district, and education system. In order to meet this challenge, the Department of Language, Culture and Equity, the family engagement specialist, family liaison, parents, and community members developed and implemented the Parenting Partner class.

The goal of this practice is to collaborate with international families to provide tools and strategies for parents to promote better understanding of their kids' growth changes, the new challenges their children will face in a new culture, and the experience of dual language students in a new education system. Parenting Partners also teach families the importance of being engaged and involved in their children's school life, as well as how to start healthy parenting as early as birth.

The Parenting Partner class meets once a week for an eight-week period for four hours at a time. Within this class, instructors focused on topics from the book, *Practical Tools for Positive Parenting*. Specific topics included:

- Positive Parenting-Success Starts at Home.
- Creating Confident Kids.
- Communication that Works.
- Creating Structure for Achievement.
- Discipline- Practice for Success.
- What Children and Teens Need to Succeed.
- Parent Engagement for Academic Success.

The demographic of the class targeted Arabic speaking parents with children in Kindergarten to twelfth grade. The meetings were held on the weekends as to not interrupt the parent and families work schedules.

The parenting partners facilitator offers the following advice to anyone interested in implementing the practice: "Arrange individual follow up meetings with each parent after a few months, and then have a group discussion meeting. Also, allow more group discussion. It has been really very valuable to all parents throughout to be able to share their experiences."

Standard 3--Supporting Student Success