



125 Best Get Involved Moments

*Play a Role in Your Child's Success at School
Get the facts... Get connected... Get involved!*



Parent
Engagement
Program



Play A Role

*In Your Child's Success In School
Get the Facts... Get Connected... Get Involved!*

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Best Get Involved Moments

Play a Role in Your Child's Success at School

Get the facts... Get Connected... Get involved!

The Georgia Department of Education's Parent Engagement Program started Best Get Involved Moments to promote academic excellence, to capture special occasions parents share with their children, and to help build better relationships between families, schools and communities in Georgia's Title I Schools.

Research has proven that students who have strong support systems and that have parents who are engaged in their education, perform better in school. Parent engagement can have

a profound effect on the overall well-being of a child; therefore, it is widely encouraged that all parents look for ways to "get involved."

This book was created to illustrate and share with Title I families the various ways parents across the state are actively getting involved in their children's education. Each November during Georgia's Parent Engagement Month, parents from across the state are given the opportunity to submit their Best Get Involved Moments to the Georgia Department of Education

through their child's school. These stories are intended to inspire parents. As you read, learn how each story reflects a special moment that occurred throughout the school year.

Being actively involved in your child's education is not only beneficial academically, but it also creates shared memories that will last a lifetime. These Best Get Involved Moments will encourage all parents to take the time to "Get the Facts... get connected... GET INVOLVED!"



Volunteer Your Time

“ *All parents want to spend quality time with their children. Some parents have found that one way to achieve this is by volunteering at their child’s school. It can be very rewarding for children, teachers and administrators when parents are visible and supportive. Volunteering your time as a parent can be as simple as chaperoning a field trip or reading a book to your child’s class; the possibilities are endless.*

School staff will often inform parents about volunteer opportunities throughout the academic year. Just ask, and above all, stay involved! ”



#1

I volunteered at the ESES book fair. So many of our youth struggle with reading or are not taught the importance of reading, which leads to self-doubt and frustration. Getting involved in a literary initiative, like the book fair, allows me to see hope and to help all members of the student's family understand that there are books that are full of wonder and fun!

-Angela Vissi, Eagle Springs Elementary School

#2

I volunteered at the Fall Festival last year. I worked at a bean bag toss game for my son's third grade class. It was very exciting to see the kids having so much fun trying to throw the bean bags inside the hoops. My son also helped me set up the game after each child got done playing.

-Eagle Springs Elementary School

#3

I volunteered at the Holiday Workshop. Prior to the workshop, I assisted in cutting out shapes to be used to make Christmas ornaments. Then on the day of the workshop I worked various stations, along with my second grader, helping the children make holiday ornaments. I'm proud to say that the ornaments that my child made now grace our tree! This is a holiday tradition for the Petty family.

-Yolanda Petty, Russell Elementary School

#4

I get a chance to pick my daughter up from practices. I enjoy when she comes home to show her new routines she has learned. After my daughter shows me her new routine I like to get involved and critique her. My involvement shows that I appreciate her passion in wanting to be a NMS Jazzy Jet Dancer!

-Saniyah Reese, Northside Middle School

#5

My daughter attended Quail Run Elementary School. At that time, I tutored some students in reading. One day, the student looked up at me and said, "Thank you for helping me." From that moment forward, I realized that

I volunteered for ALL of the students and parents...not just my child.

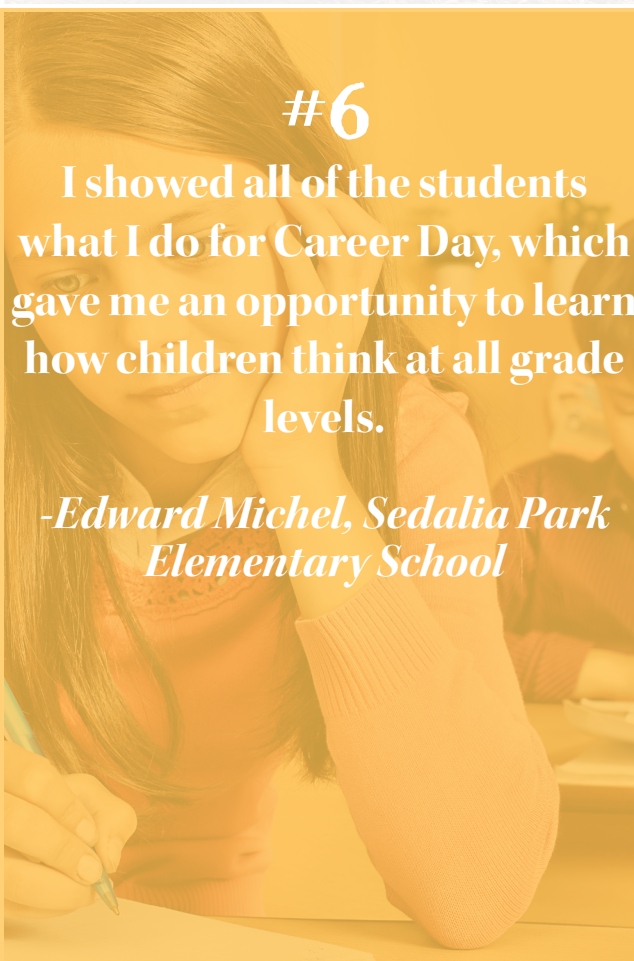
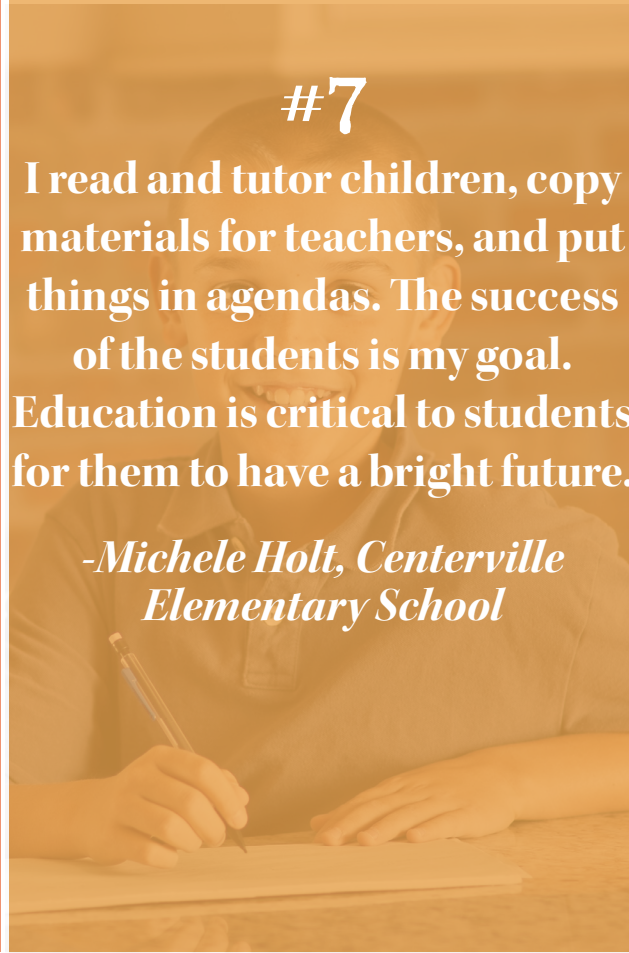
-Elaine Malone, Perry High School



#7

I read and tutor children, copy materials for teachers, and put things in agendas. The success of the students is my goal. Education is critical to students for them to have a bright future.

-Michele Holt, Centerville Elementary School



#6

I showed all of the students what I do for Career Day, which gave me an opportunity to learn how children think at all grade levels.

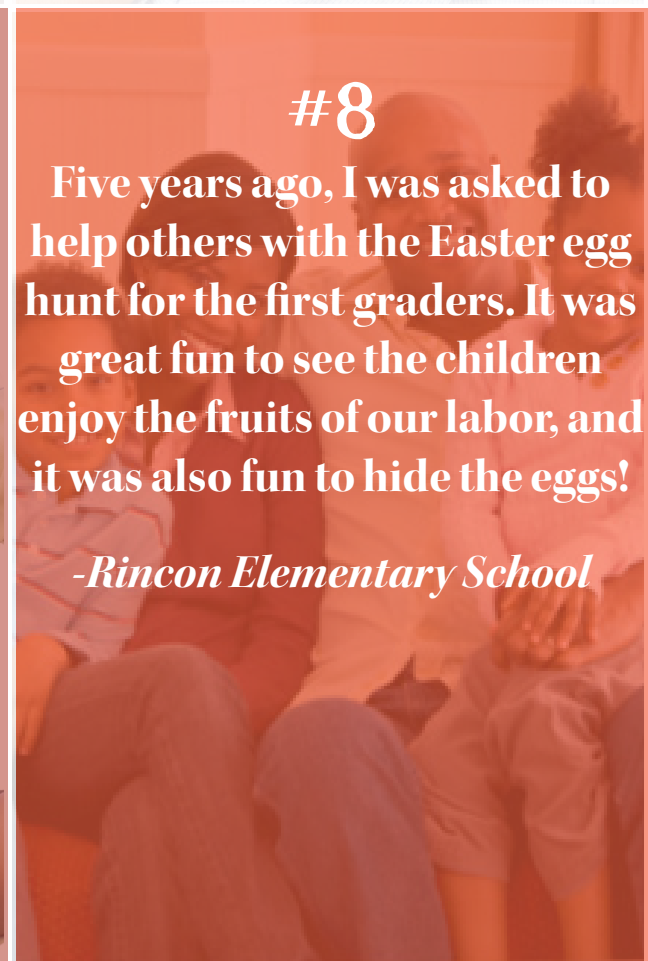
-Edward Michel, Sedalia Park Elementary School



#8

Five years ago, I was asked to help others with the Easter egg hunt for the first graders. It was great fun to see the children enjoy the fruits of our labor, and it was also fun to hide the eggs!

-Rincon Elementary School



#9

I went to my son's field day last year. My job was to help the teachers with the children. I really enjoyed myself because I had to demonstrate how to do the different activities to the children and it was so much fun. I gave out the ribbons to the children who placed in each activity.

-Live Oak Elementary School

#10

My husband and I helped with the October PACT time in our son's classroom. I helped the kids in the class put the nose on the pumpkin, and my husband and I decided to show the kids what a jack-o-lantern looks like.

-Perry Primary School

#11

I volunteer 3-4 days a week and love every minute of it! I do awards, copies, Tuesday folders, and whatever else anyone needs along the way.

I have three kids here and I volunteer for all of their classes.

-Mandy Trevino, Eagle Springs Elementary School

#12

My daughter was excited to be on the Christmas parade float so I helped her and her schoolmates decorate it with wrapped boxes, lights, and a chimney. After we decorated the float we got to ride on it and throw candy to the crowd. This was my best get involved moment because I got to see the smiles on the kid's faces and it was so far the best moment of my life.

-Sandy Hill Elementary School

#13

I volunteered

for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. I had the pleasure of greeting the teachers as they came in. I was able to tell them about the different and wonderful food options. I poured their drinks as they grazed over the phenomenal spread set before them. The teachers were so happy and appreciative, which in turn made my day! For years, these magnificent teachers have invested countless hours into our four children. I love that I was able to get involved and give back!

-Rose Shackelford, Russell Elementary School

#14

When my daughter was in kindergarten, I volunteered to go to the cornfield maze with her class. When we arrived at the maze, each parent was assigned to a small group of students to accompany through the maze.

-David L. Rainer Elementary School

#15

The children were looking forward to making ice cream and I took it upon myself to purchase the necessary ingredients. I took the ingredients to the class and assisted the teachers in making and serving the ice cream.

-Rincon Elementary School

#16

I helped the boys and girls in my son's class paint their Fall Festival T-shirts. We used their fists to create a pumpkin and their fingerprints to make leaves. Each child was eager to participate in the activity.

-Sedalia Park Elementary School

#17

I like doing what my son likes doing. Such as going on field trips and being with him and his friends. I also like visiting his classroom to be with him when we do activities together.

-Christopher Echeverria, Lake Forest Elementary School

#18

I helped Mrs. Stowe's class paint T-shirts. We helped the class paint pumpkins on white shirts for them to wear to their fall festival. I loved to see the excitement on the children's faces as they used orange paint to sponge the pumpkin.

-Christy Bradley, Rincon Elementary School

#19

Making dough ornaments during the holiday season with the 3-4 year old children was a wonderful experience. Watching the children select their favorite cookie cutter, paint the dough, and delight in their final ornament was the BEST.

- Courtney May, The Frazer Center

#20

My daughter had two roles in the play Macbeth. I was involved in helping with the rehearsals, decoration, and I also helped with the changing of costumes.

- Live Oak Elementary School

#21

I received an unexpected parent of the year award due to my consistent involvement over the years and continued volunteer hours, often working extra hours when not required.

-Jaimye Moore, Park Street Elementary School



#22

It is nice working in the tiger store and watching the students make their choices, but the best part for me is having the students wave and joke with me from week to week at school or around town.

Volunteering at school is very rewarding for me.

-Sandra Vest, Spring Place Elementary School

#23

I volunteered to help with field day festivities when my daughter went to Moultrie Road Head Start. I also donated to her fund-raiser campaign and the teachers were so proud and very thankful for my support and reliability.

-Sarah Thomas, MLK Elementary School

#24

We volunteered

at Head Start. The teacher would hold up a letter and the children had to tell what the letter was. We were so surprised that they knew each letter.

-Robert and Laura Boykin, Head Start

#25

My daughter was in the first grade at the time and I was able to get involved with her class activities and find out, in great detail, what she was learning on a day-to-day basis. I met all of her friends, saw her grow in different academic areas and also spent some valuable time with her.

-Shantay Norman, Rosebud Elementary School

#26

I traveled with my son's 8th grade class to the King Tut exhibit in 2008. I was very impressed with the teachers and how they handled such a large group. I also got to meet several wonderful parents.

-Dawn Johnson, Snellville Middle School

#27

I got to come to the school and explain to my son's second grade class how making pizzas was an example of a business. I also brought cooked pizza to share with the class.

-Dawn Hall, Miller Elementary School

#28

Mrs. Pace asked me to attend the Scholastic Book Fair seminar in her place because she was having trouble with her computer and had to wait for her repair person. At the seminar we all had to introduce ourselves. I was the only volunteer there. The rest were all media specialists. When I introduced myself, they all cheered for me being there. Upon returning to the school, Mrs. Earthly greeted me as I walked into the office and said I had saved the day.

-Tracy Decher, Linwood at CB Watson School

#29

My son and I went on the fire station field trip. He was taught about smoke detectors, and the firemen also taught him about a "family escape route." We also learned about the equipment on the fire truck, and my son was able to sing his "fire song" to the fire chief.

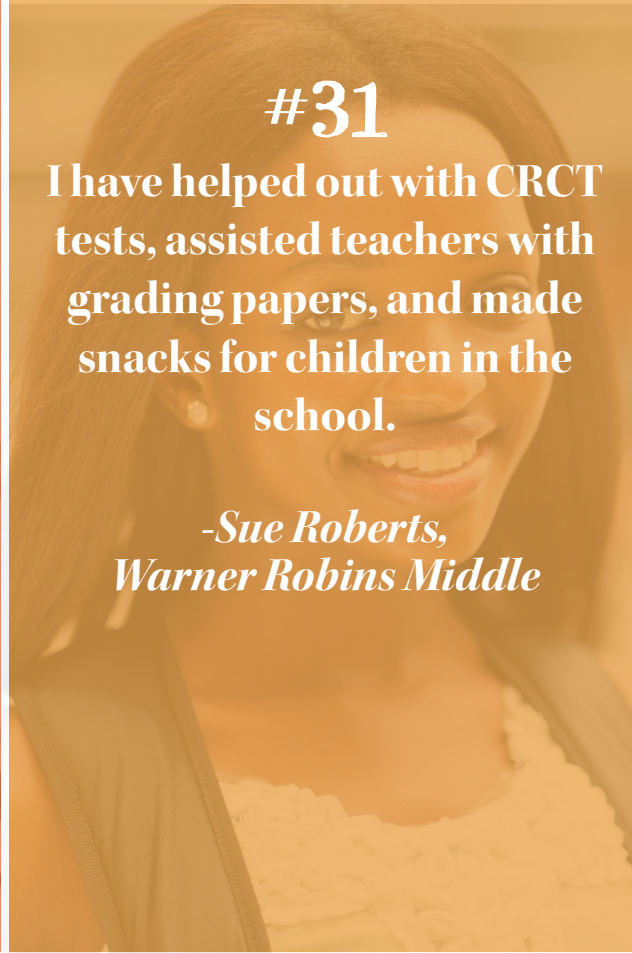
-Pike County Schools



#31

I have helped out with CRCT tests, assisted teachers with grading papers, and made snacks for children in the school.

*-Sue Roberts,
Warner Robins Middle*



#30

I began to get involved in my children's school by volunteering in the library. It was very special spending time with my kids and other children at the school.

-Marcia Camargo, Lake Forest Elementary School



#32

Last year during Dr. Seuss week, I took a day off from work and volunteered in Mrs. Scannell's kindergarten class to read Dr. Seuss stories to my daughter and the rest of her class.

-Eagle Springs Elementary School



#33

The best way for me to be involved in my daughter's education was to join her on a field trip to the High Museum of Atlanta! I enjoyed the students, teachers, and my daughter while we all learned about something new!

-Tiffany Young, Snellville Middle School

#34

I volunteer in Mrs. Dickey's class by helping separate and count the worksheets for each lesson, and I also help Mrs. Keeler by updating the accelerated math chart.

-Rincon Elementary School

#35

I go to my son's school and I volunteer every Tuesday and Thursday. I also help with various school events as a hostess. When I volunteer I am helping watch over the students, running the PAWS store, or organizing papers with Mrs. Smith. I really enjoy interacting with my son and his teachers at school.

-Misty Bennett, Southeast Elementary School

#36

I first started to volunteer when my daughter was in 2nd grade. I would help in her classroom by doing sight words with the children and help the teacher get take home folders ready. This led to a lot of volunteering for me! I am now very involved at the school and PTO President.

-Colleen Johnson

#37

My favorite moments have all been *helping the teachers.*

It builds relationships that last a lifetime and they are always so appreciative for any help received - big or small! I am able to run errands for the teachers as well as help with classroom parties and clerical work. What a joy it is when the teachers know me by name, not because my children are always in trouble, but because they know I support what they do.

-Ramona Lunsford, Perry Middle School

#38

My daughter and I had special nights out, just us girls, when we went to PTO meetings. We had girl time and I got to meet some other parents and volunteer to get more involved! My son and I spent an hour one evening learning about what happens daily in the classroom. I felt more connected and educated about how to help him succeed. It was a joy to watch him excited about learning!

-Teresa C. Hensley, Miller Elementary School

#39

I was asked to be a proctor at the school to help with the CRCT test. My favorite moment was "Birthdays on Stage", when the school recognizes the students who have birthdays that month and give them a cupcake with a birthday cake on top of it. The joy to see the kids feeling so happy is priceless. I really enjoy being involved at my child's school.

-Kalessa Smith, Parkwood Elementary School



Express High Educational Expectations

“ *Encourage your child to take challenging courses and monitor your child's academic performance (homework, grades, and test scores) throughout the year. Emphasize effort and achievement.* ”

#40

I check up on my child regularly to monitor progress being made. I ask my child every day what he has learned that day in class and what was his favorite part. Knowing what is going on with my child and his progress is a great moment for me.

-Dana Davis, Miller Elementary School

#41

My best Get Involved moment was by setting an example. About four years ago I was in school and graduated with a 3.97 GPA. After seeing her dad in school getting straight As, my daughter wanted to do the same. For the past two and half years she has been a straight A student. The only thing I have ever asked was that she do her best. Since math is my strong area, I am able to help her when she has trouble, and her efforts show. She has come a long way and I am proud of her.

-William Benningfield, Warner Robins Middle School

#42

My best Get Involved Moment was teaching my son how to read. To me, reading is the most important skill one needs in life. If you teach someone to read you open the whole world of knowledge to them. Now my son reads for fun, which is great to see.

Jennifer Castro, Warner Robins Middle School

#43

After I found out that my child was having difficulty with penmanship and learning words that rhyme, I got involved by giving her more one on one attention during homework. I started placing my hand over hers to guide her in the formation of her letters, and bath-time would be used to recite words that rhyme. I know that my involvement plays an essential part in my child's education.

-Mary Lizzie Royal, Perry Primary School

#44

I express high educational expectations to my child. She wants to be a doctor, and I tell her that if she wants to reach that goal, education is the key. When times get hard and she gets frustrated with school I tell her 'the more you learn, the more you earn' and she smiled and gets right back on track.

-Morrissa Dawson, Southeast Elementary School

#45

My daughter is little and I help her with homework and I explain to her the things that she doesn't understand. I can't participate in school activities like I would like, but I always tell her how important her education is and how it will help her in the future. I am very proud of her.

-Ernestina Lopez, Warner Robins Middle School

#46

I like keeping up with my kids' grades and knowing how well they are doing in school. I enjoy talking to my kids' teachers and seeing how well they are doing, as well as finding out what needs to be worked on.

-Christy Smith, South East Elementary School



Attend School Events

“ *Attending school events is important across all grade levels. Parents can show their support for their child’s education by attending events such as curriculum nights, award ceremonies, and parent-teacher conferences. There are many opportunities to attend events throughout the school year. Parents can also attend workshops, school fairs, fine arts exhibitions or have lunch with their child. These acts of support will reassure your child that you care about their academic success.* ”

#47

Westside High School held their “Apply for College Day”.

I was able to search the internet with my child and look for schools that offered programs that interested her. She was able to choose and apply for the state schools and get started on her college and career planning. I was grateful that the school held this event because it really got her motivated and excited about her future.

-Leslie Lewis, Westside High School

#48

At “Hot Dog, We’re Reading,” the school provided dinner for my family and afterwards we went to our son’s quad to listen to a story being read by his teacher. The teacher explained different strategies used, as well as reasonable expectations. It was so enlightening.

-Perry Primary School

#49

I participated in the Fall Festival that the school held during the month of October. Teachers were involved and friendly. I signed up for PTA and am looking forward to experiencing many more events to come.

-Rosebud Elementary School

#50

I was taking photos while McGruff visited my daughter’s class to talk about drugs and crime prevention. Later we re-enacted my daughter’s classroom curriculum, and I saw that it improved her understanding of drug awareness.

-McIntosh Elementary School

#51

Pike Co. Pre-K hosts a valentine tea party where the family members are honored guests at the tea. Each child has the pleasure of serving tea to their family as well as other families. My daughter served her sister, my niece, her brother, her aunt and me.

-Pike County Schools

#52

I attended Parent Involvement Day at Snellville Middle School. This allowed us to “go to school” with our son. We were so excited and appreciative of the students and teachers who put this event together.

-Snellville Middle School

#53

My husband and I attended a literary breakfast at my daughter’s school. We all ate breakfast together and had a good conversation, just like we do at home. It really got us connected and involved when we all shared together one of the most important meals of the day at school.

-Lorena Lean, Riverside Primary School

#54

I was able to read to my son at his Open House and literacy night programs when we lived in Birmingham. I took those moments as stepping stones to grow as a parent and help develop my son as a strong reader. The school always had educational tools for parents as well as students, and I made sure I utilized them all. I truly believe for a child to succeed, they must have a well involved parent.

-Roshundra Foy, Westside Elementary School

#55

Grandparents Day
was a great reward.

I was given the chance to mingle with my grandson's classmates, and I found out that some of them did not have their grandparents present.

Therefore, I volunteered to be their grandparent.

-Lindsey Elementary School

#56

I dressed up as a black cat for "Character Day" and went to school to read stories with my daughter. Many parents showed up to read with their children, and while we often read stories at our home, this was my first opportunity to become engaged in an activity at her school.

-McIntosh Elementary School

#57

My best Get Involved Moment is when I was invited to participate in school activities during Hispanic Heritage Month. We celebrated the Independence of Mexico and provided information to families about its history. We had a wonderful time, and the teachers were continuously providing opportunities to better educate the families in Houston. Many families have benefited from these opportunities and the freedom of our community radiates through this education.

It was most appropriate during this month because the freedom of Mexico was to acquire education, principles and goods for our country.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING OUR COUNTRY INTO ACCOUNT!

-David G., Miller Elementary School

#58

I went to eat Thanksgiving lunch with my daughter. I enjoyed the experience and it was exciting to hear her tell me about her classmates.

However, the most exciting part was when we went back to the classroom. I had a chance to experience how they learn on a daily basis and I think Mrs. Merritt does a wonderful job. I admire how she has organized the center for learning, and it shows, because my daughter is excelling wonderfully. I enjoy reviewing with my daughter every night during our homework hour, and appreciate Mrs. Merritt and Mr. Best for making it a wonderful experience.

-Gennifer Jones, Westside Elementary School

#59

When my boys were in the first grade they were involved in many parent centered activities in Mrs. Atkins' class. Mrs. Atkins and Mrs. Christian had "Muffins for Moms", "Donuts for Dads", and "Grandparents Day" each year. These opportunities allowed parents to have an opportunity to experience their children's classroom and teachers; it was truly a memorable experience!

-Marcy Welch, Rincon Elementary School

#60

I was able to attend every activity that involved the parents at Russell Elementary, one each month. It was fun to be there often enough to get to know the students and how our son was interacting with his new friends. I was able to go in and help with some presentations to several grades. I love being able to be at school often enough to know who each friend is when our son references them in stories about his day.

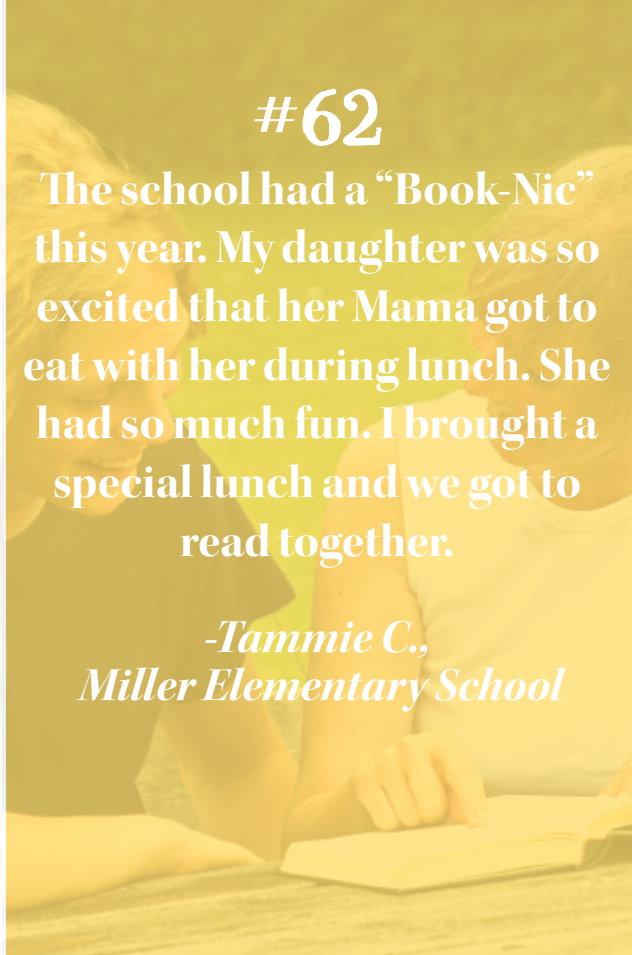
-Russell Elementary School



#62

The school had a “Book-Nic” this year. My daughter was so excited that her Mama got to eat with her during lunch. She had so much fun. I brought a special lunch and we got to read together.

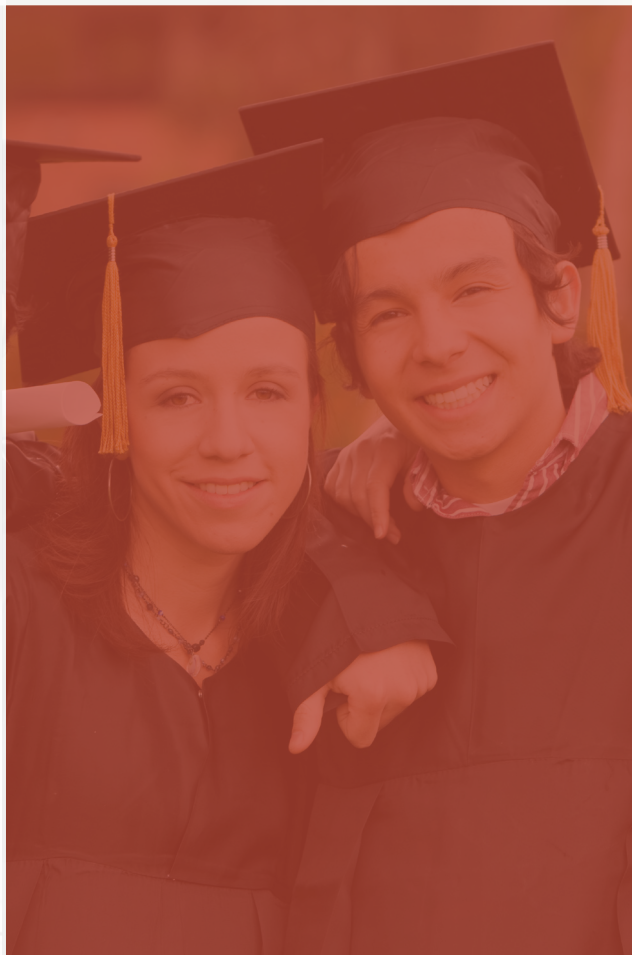
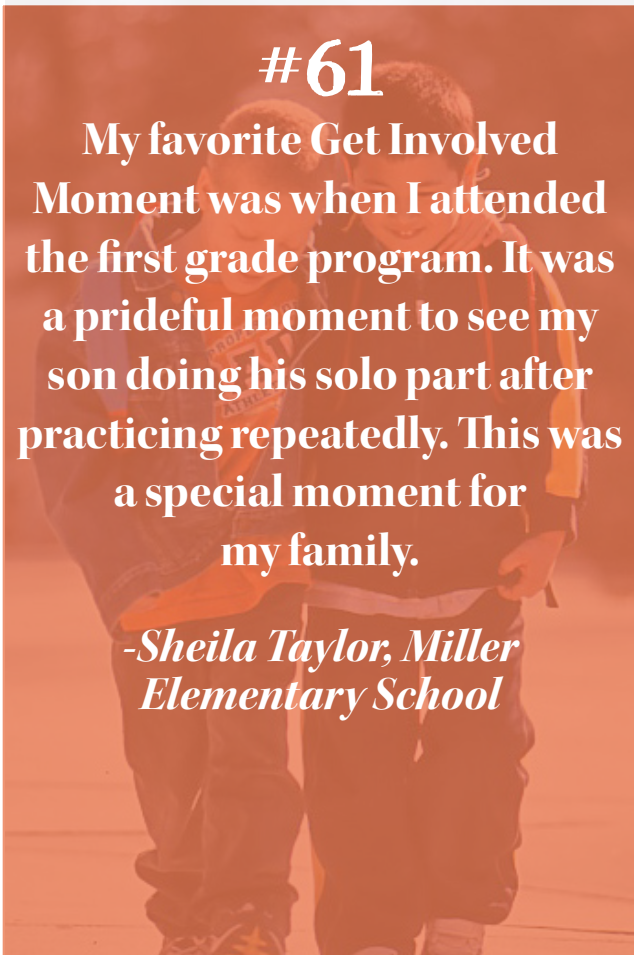
*-Tammie C.,
Miller Elementary School*



#61

My favorite Get Involved Moment was when I attended the first grade program. It was a prideful moment to see my son doing his solo part after practicing repeatedly. This was a special moment for my family.

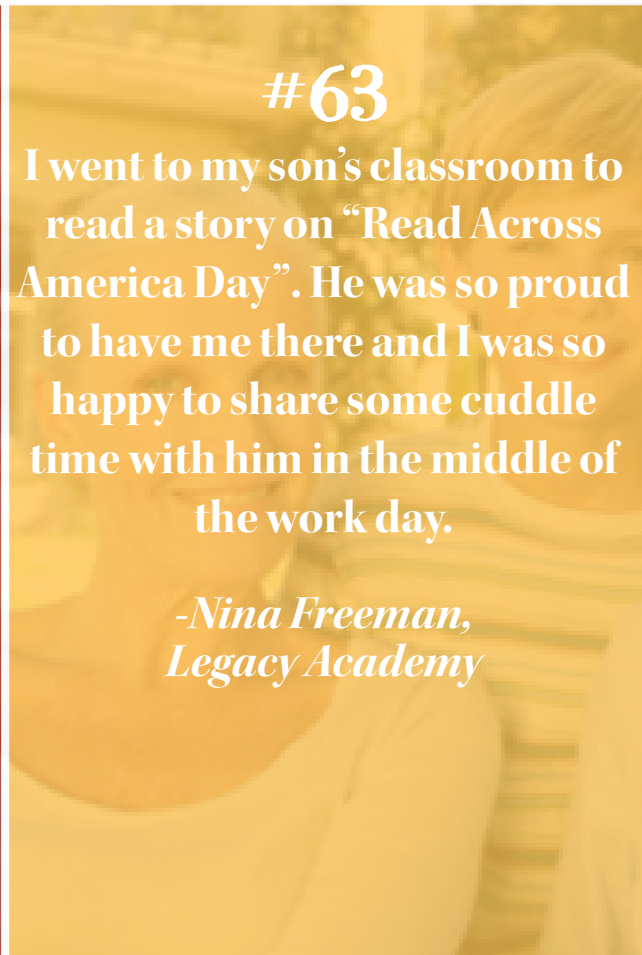
*-Sheila Taylor, Miller
Elementary School*



#63

I went to my son’s classroom to read a story on “Read Across America Day”. He was so proud to have me there and I was so happy to share some cuddle time with him in the middle of the work day.

*-Nina Freeman,
Legacy Academy*





#64

My son came to Westside from a smaller Pre-K program in Stockbridge, GA. I was very skeptical and nervous for him to start in a public school, but Westside made us feel very welcomed. Our first moment getting involved was the “Thanksgiving Pot Luck”. His teachers, the staff, and classmates made that moment memorable. He is my oldest son and that will be the day I will always remember.

-Latrail Turner, Westside Elementary School

#65

Westside High School held their “Apply for College Day” and I was able to search the internet with my child and look for schools that offered programs that interested her. She was able to choose and apply for three state school schools and get started on her college and career planning. I was grateful that the school held this event because it really got her motivated and excited about her future.

-Leslie Lewis, Westside High School

#66

I visited my 5th grade daughter and her class for *Open Classroom Day.*

Her teacher was instructing the class on how to choose a topic for an argument essay, and was alternating between letting parents and students choose topics and arguments for the topic. With 22 students and 7 other parents in the classroom, I was trying very hard not to raise my hand to help out too much. After a few moments of waiting for the other parents to interact, I put my hand in the air to add to the arguments. Looking around the classroom, the only other hand in the air belonged to me own child! She and I were asked to come to the front of the class to present our argument for and against keeping the child’s room clean. As I stood toe-to-toe with my child, I had the opportunity to realize that I have passed on a passion for learning and participation that can sometimes be so hard to cultivate in our children. And, as we rounded out our argument, I also got to pass on one more lesson to my child: how to gracefully lose as argument against your mother!

-Kelly Brooks, Northside Elementary School

#67

My son invited his grandparents and me to his math exploration spaghetti dinner. He got to meet up with other kindergartners to do math-related activities and learn new things. We all had a great time, especially seeing how well Michael has progressed since starting kindergarten at Parkwood Elementary. He got to tell us what he enjoyed about the evening and sit with his best friend, who also attended the event. We all look forward to doing things with him in his school again!

-Angela Bray, Parkwood Elementary

#68

I attended PACT time in October. I loved how I was able to engage with the pumpkin seed activity which my son enjoyed. He was excited mostly about showing me that he could count the many pumpkin seeds that he was able to pull out of the pumpkin. I really look forward to more activities that I can share with my son.

-Tabitha Harrell, Perry Primary School

#69

As a community advocate, I get involved in various activities with my children. I try my best to attend all activities with my children at school. From events at Miller Elementary to Band Night, and Math/Science Expos at Warner Robins Middle School, I'm there. I feel this is important to keep kids involved to show respect and a sense of community.

-Crystal M., Miller Elementary School

#70

Every year, Joseph Martin Elementary has a morning called "Muffins for Mom". We enjoyed talking while we waited and loved to see all the smiles on everyone's faces. As the line got closer to the muffin table, it looked as though they had run out. My son looked up at me and said, "If you don't get a muffin mommy, I just want you to know that I had fun waiting in line with you."

-Kim Woodward, Joseph Martin Elementary School

#71

I attended the Grandparent Luncheon that Ms. Bryant organized. At this luncheon, my grandson and I read the book "David at School". This moment made a positive impact on him, as well as a great memory. Since then, when I visit him, he has to read something to me. He says "Granny, remember when we read the book at school in the lunchroom?"

-Westside Elementary Elementary

#72

We attended the *math and science night.*

The teachers had different stations for everyone to go to. They even had the school mascot there. Every teacher and administrator is always very helpful and friendly. Warner Robins Middle School has something for every parent to get involved in.

-Heather Ivestor, Warner Robins Middle School

#73

My Best Get Involved Moment was when Northside Middle School held a Social Studies “Around the World” night. Many of the students, parents, and teachers came together and each made a special dish. These dishes represented different cultures and foods they ate from many different countries. It was a fun night of fellowship and learning about the many unique and delicious foods “around the world”. History papers, stories, drawings, and many other learning examples the students worked on in social studies were displayed throughout the halls. It was a fun and great learning experience for all of the students and adults. The best moment was sharing the moment with my son.

-Hanna Peacock, Northside Middle School

#74

I went to my son’s dinner at the Boys and Girls Club and he was so glad I was there to sit with him, as well as with his friends who did not have a parent there with them.

-Robert Bell, Northside Elementary School

#75

We had a “Book-Nic” day. My daughter, her 2 year old sister, and I sat on a blanket outside, ate lunch, and read many stories. Other children, whose parents were unable to attend, also came over and listened to my stories.

-Miller Elementary School





Observe Classroom Instruction

“ *Parents are encouraged to take time to visit their children’s class throughout the school year. During a classroom visit, parents can observe what their children are learning, become aware of who their friends are, and get a jump start on how to help them with their homework. Observing your child at school will also show them that you care about their academic performance and achievement. With support from your child’s teacher, you can help bridge the learning process from the classroom to the home.* ”



#76

My son released balloons with every other class in Pre-K, where each class had different color balloons. He asked me to participate with him, so we then put our names, ages, and info on an index card which was attached to the balloon. Watching the balloons, made up from the colors of the rainbow, float off into the big blue sky was very 'spirit lifting'.

-Eton Elementary School

#77

I volunteered to watch over my child's classmates during a special event. They were watching a movie as a treat for behaving well during the week of state exams. I didn't realize that there would be quite a few parents there. I had fun and got to know some of my daughter's friends. I believe my daughter was proud to see "her mother" being supportive while we enjoyed each other's company.

-La'Shanna B., Miller Elementary School

#78

I visited my daughter's class and read books to all the students.

This not only helped to be involved with my daughter but her fellow students also. I always get a great feeling inside when I have people look up to me in a way that I feel I made a difference in their lives. I love my kids and encourage them to always try to be their best!

-Jessica L. Pearson, Jones Wheat Elementary

#79

My daughter turned four in February, and her classmates, grandmother, and I participated in an activity called a "Celebration of Life" at her Pre-K. We showed pictures of things that occurred during the first few years of life.

-Pike County Schools



#80

I am able to go into the classroom and observe the children learning different math concepts. I also enjoy working with the teachers as they teach children and offer them the chance to receive an excellent education.

-Tammy Harper, Edwards Middle School



#82

I often get involved in my two daughters' activities in the classroom. Being involved means sitting down with them and reading with both girls. Not just reading, but staying very close to what they are doing each day.

-Joseph Martin Elementary School



#81

I came to PACT time to watch my daughter learn math. It was wonderful to see how the whole class was able to maintain focus. I got to help Meaghan and her friend with some of the math activities. It was a fun morning of learning.

-Perry Primary School



#83

Once in the classroom, I sat down in my daughter's reading area. She has a quiet corner of the room where she can sit and enjoy her reading time. I am thankful C.B. Watson has days like this where parents can become a part of the classroom and see just how our children learn.

-Jara Hurt, C.B. Watson School

#84

I stayed at Pre-K with my twins and watched them complete their lesson with their teacher. At playtime, it seemed like all the children wanted to serve me lunch, so they played waiter and waitress and brought me plate after plate with drinks. Now the twins want me to come back every day!

-Lisa Epps, McIntosh Elementary School

#85

I was able to observe students engaged in learning. It was great to see the various teaching/learning styles of teachers and students. Most classes worked on a collaborative lesson where students worked in a group. Lunch was great. I was able to meet with other parents and make connections.

-Snellville Middle School

#86

I remember visiting my daughter's kindergarten class

during writing time. Parents were asked to come see their children write stories. I was so amazed at how well my daughter was writing. She was actually writing sentences that I could read. I was so surprised by how much she had developed her writing skills in kindergarten.

-Perry Primary School





Be Active in a Parent Organization

“ Parents often strive to get involved in their child’s education by becoming an active member and decision-maker in school parent organizations. There are a number of programs and organizations to which one can belong, such as the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), school council, parent advisory council, and booster clubs. Many parents have found that it is enjoyable to be a part of these organizations to ensure they are partners in their child’s education. These organizations can also provide parents with the parent-to-parent support they need. ”

#87

I was co-president of the PTO for two years. Our annual carnival, which is the school's largest fundraiser, is a huge endeavor that takes a lot of time, effort, and volunteers. Running the carnival each year was a challenge as well as a reward. The hard work paid off. Our school successfully raised the funds needed while students and parents enjoyed fellowship.

-Perry Primary School

#88

I was asked if I would be a part of the Rosebud School Council. I agreed, and at the first meeting I was elected president. Serving the school for the two-year term has been a great experience. I also served on the Title I Committee at Rosebud for the initial year and then both schools for the 2nd year, attending district PAC meetings.

-Rosebud Elementary School

#89

I can remember the excitement in William and Matthew's eyes as they began their journey in school at Norton Elementary. I had the opportunity to be a part of their School Council and later Co-President of the PTA.

-Norton Elementary School

#93

My son entered middle school not knowing anyone. It was very hard for him. I told him that I would be at school with him until he became more comfortable with his surroundings. I now volunteer on the parent-teacher board and I think Fort Valley Middle School is a school that goes beyond the call of duty.

-Twana Cook-Willis, Fort Valley Middle School

#90

We had more than 100 parents attend our recent PISA meeting. As a result, the principal announced he would have a round table for parents after our next basketball game to provide an opportunity for more parental support and engagement. We have found that by providing various times when parents are already at the school, it increases our chances for increased parental support.

-Dephne Enmon, Young Middle School

#91

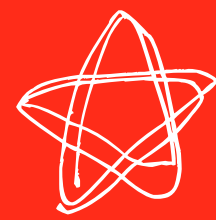
I was recruited by my friend Diana to become involved with PTA. I became the secretary and was able to go to the annual conference in Atlanta. It really opened my eyes to all the services that PTA provides for the children.

-Nora Kelly, Rincon Elementary School

#92

Having the opportunity to attend and be a part of the Title I Parent Advisory Committee meeting, I was able to speak with Ms. Davis and Ms. Strohl directly. I offered my thoughts and suggestions. They were open to hearing what the parents had to say.

-Tonica Frazier, Rosebud Elementary School



Communicate with School Staff

“ *Communication with school staff helps parents learn how to get involved and stay involved. It is vital that parents take the time to have a positive conversation with the school principal, counselors, and parent involvement coordinator. Parents can request a meeting with their child’s teacher anytime throughout the school year in person or by teleconference. Visiting the school website on a regular basis can also provide access to key information about topics parents need to know, such as homework assignments and the school calendar.* ”

#94

My husband and I were determined to get involved in our son's education, especially since I felt so comfortable communicating with his teacher and always felt welcome at his school. For instance, I could e-mail his teacher at any time during the day and get an immediate response. My son loved his school and his teacher. I felt at ease knowing that my son was in good hands.

-Eton Elementary School

#95

I am happy to see that the Parent Mentor is involved in a support group for families with children who have disabilities. This group will be positive for the families, in that they now can receive advice and assistance, as well as emotional support.

-Heather Gay, Rincon Elementary School

#96

I come in to the school and meet with teachers on any issue involving my son. The teachers and principals are very helpful, and I appreciate the concern that EMS has for my son's academic performance, as well as his behavior. They are really helpful and tend to be really concerned about my child's future. I thank them for that.

- Artmadaya Pan, Edwards Middle School

#100

One time my child got sick and had to stay home from school. He begged to go to school because he insisted that his teacher needed him there. I think the interaction between his teacher and him is dynamic!

-McIntosh Elementary School

#97

I talked to the school official at Norton about the progress my son, who was in Special Ed classes, made during the summer and asked him to place my child in the regular Ed classes. After some evaluations and meetings, my son was able to make the move from Special Education to the mainstream. He was transferred to Rosebud Elementary soon afterward. He did well and was not only promoted to 5th grade but he is also taking all his classes in general education with his peers.

-Rosebud Elementary School

#98

Ms. Mayrose sat with me for almost two hours to speak with me about my son. Her taking that time, before she even knew my son, showed me that she really loves teaching and will be a great person for him to be close to during his first year of middle school.

-Edwards Middle School

#99

My son was having problems with some kids teasing and bothering him at school. I asked the Principal of the school to call the parents of the kids that were bothering him so we could all have a meeting. After we all got together to discuss what was going on, the kids involved apologized to my son and now they are all the best of friends.

-Quincy Caine, Warner Robins Middle School



#101

Both my mother and I are very involved in my daughter's school. I keep a close relationship with her teachers. We go over homework and extra activities that are going on in her school.

-Nicole Gerjets, Joseph Martin Elementary School



#103

I came to the parent center and was introduced to a lot of information on how to accommodate my child's education, primarily to help my daughter study and communicate with her teachers.

-Simone Williams, Edwards Middle School



#102

I appreciate when the Language Arts teacher, Ms. Smith, sends out information about tests, quizzes, and other important information regarding school work in her class. This helps parents keep up with school work on a daily basis.

-Edwards Middle School



#104

My grandson was the oldest to come to me in August of 2009 for a ten month visit. At that time he had no prior educational preparation, as he was only three. I diligently worked with him with the support of Mrs. Holmes of South Salem. We taught him to say his ABC's and to count to ten. Gradually, this got him to be able to read sight word books.

-Lake Forest Elementary School

#105

The meetings I had with Mrs. Bradberry, Mrs. Thompson, and Mrs. Atherton have made me feel more comfortable about leaving my children somewhere without me. They took time to hear my concerns and gave me helpful tips about academic studies and behavior issues. I did not feel rushed or lectured. I did not leave until I was 100% comfortable and understood everything going on at the meetings.

-Jordan Hightower, Rosebud Elementary School

#106

My daughter was in kindergarten when she first started to read. Many thanks are to be given to the teachers, my mom, and my sister for helping me work with her. We continue to work hard with her school work every day.

-Seigee Johnson, Miller Elementary School

#107

After meeting with my son's teacher, I had the opportunity to ask questions. Some of the questions that I had were, "What are my son's strongest areas? Which ones does he struggle with? How can we help him to succeed? This type of meeting is what I like to have because you discover that the teachers have an interest in our kids which enables our kids to advance in academics and exceed all expectations.

-Lake Forest Elementary School

#108

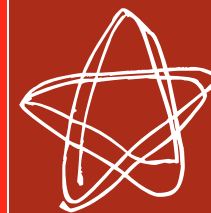
For the Thanksgiving Day feast at my daughter's school, the teacher asked me if I could volunteer to help set up for the feast. I believe that the facilitating factor in any parent's involvement in their child's education and well-being at school relies on a partnership. A child's educational success depends on an active partnership between the parent and teacher. We must work together in order to give our children the keys to success; a valuable education.

-Joann Yousif, Eagle Springs Elementary School

#109

The new technology amazes me. I am able to stay in touch with my two daughters, as well as with their teachers almost every day. I have a great partnership with Rossville Middle School. The staff and teachers make me feel at home.

-Laura McNabb, Rossville Middle School



Provide a Rich Learning Environment at Home

“ Make time for meaningful dinner conversations, trips, games, reading time, family sports, and daily routines. Activities like these will contribute to your child’s academic achievement in school. ”

#110

We created the “Wall of Words” in our house that my husband, my daughters, and I created. It is full of sight words that we feel are important for our children to learn. Our kids love school and they love learning. So we push education and the importance of reading in our family. As the year progresses, we add more words to our wall.

-Edward and Brittany Shannon, Perry Primary School

#111

My best Get Involved Moment occurs nightly. My daughter and I either read a book or enjoy ABC and 123 flashcards. She’s one and at an impressionable age and I want to impart the importance of reading and learning now.

-Dotheria Ford

#112

My best Get Involved Moment is when we help my son with his homework. Every Wednesday his father and I give Omar homework and he does at least 2 to 3 pages out of his learning book and we grade it. Omar enjoys learning so it’s a great experience for all of us. Knowing that your child is learning new things that he actually enjoys doing and getting a great education is the best thing we as parents could ever ask for.

-Edwards Middle School

#113

Each night we spend time with our son reading books before bed. We work on letter sounds and word recognition. This also gives us time to talk about his day and say our prayers. The one on one time before bed is very special to all of us.

-Cindy Gellins, Perry Primary School

#114

My best Get Involved Moment is when my son and I go to Kroger. We talk about what we’re going to buy and how much it costs. I think that is one of my best Get Involved Moments because we can talk to each other and I show him what to get and how to do it.

-Bridget Keen, Perry Primary School

#115

My daughter and I played school along with her younger brothers and dad. Samera was the teacher which allowed her to read to us, as well as ask and answer questions about her book for the week. She also taught us what she learned in school. So, at the end of the day she was reteaching herself and developing an understanding of her lesson from school.

-Merricka Mckenzie, Tucker Elementary School



#116

We read a book almost every night before bed. We play 20 questions all the time in the car. If my daughter asks a question, I explain it the best I can. We also work on her adding, subtracting, letter sounds, spelling, and rhyming workbooks everyday. I also ask her everything she does at school everyday. My child is five-years-old and reading, writing, and doing math everyday.

-Paige Dowda, Southeast Elementary School

#117

I provide a rich learning environment at home for my kids. I have six kids and homework time can sometimes be challenging. So we came up with some ideas to help make homework fun and at the same time a learning experience. We do songs and raps for vocabulary and spelling words. We do flashcard games for math and we have fake money to help them learn their dollars and cents, and I have things for them to buy with the money. I feel as a parent you have to make learning fun for your kids. Do things that they like to get their attention and keep it interesting for them.

-Morrissa Dawson, Southeast Elementary School

#118

My best Get Involved Moment was reading my son's first "published piece". While he loves school, writing was not on his favorite - but he has developed a love for writing and enjoys the thought of "publishing" his hard work. I enjoyed working with him at home helping him generate ideas.

-Jody McGriff, Westside Elementary School

#119

I discovered my granddaughter was having difficulty reading, especially pronouncing certain words. She likes to play school at home, so I decided to try using this as a way to help her with the problem. Sometimes I play like I am the teacher, and I will give her homework - and we go over it in class (I really compliment her on what she does well). I also write remarks and give stickers. Then at times I let her be the teacher and she always does things just as her teacher does at school - which keeps me more informed. I can see an improvement in her reading and more interest.

-Mary Day, North LaFayette Elementary School

#120

My daughter Maggie and I work on her weekly homework. She is so excited about learning and taking the first steps toward reading. We love reading books together with her little sister.

-Shane Bell, Perry Primary School

#121

My daughter picked up the book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" and started reading. I know she is only reading from memorization because I read that book to her everyday when she was a young baby. Once I saw her reading, I ran to her and joined in to point the words that she was reading. I have always been proud of my child's accomplishments, but that moment always plays in my mind. She revealed to me, at that moment, that I was doing something good every night before we go to bed.

-Bridgett Harvey, Perry Primary School



#122

Three to four nights each week we read with our son, Asher, and during that time he'll read one book to us and we'll read one book to him. One best Get Involved Moment happened when Asher wanted to read a second/third grade level book. We opened the book to read to him, but he insisted he wanted to read to us. To our amazement he methodically read each page with little to no help from us. Even more amazing was that he could recall the story to us. We are so proud of our enthusiastic little reader who's not afraid of a challenge and shows a strong desire to want to read.

-Tim and Diana McConnell, Perry Primary School

#123

I assisted my daughter with her volcano project, which we built out of paper mache. She also did a report about volcanoes. This gave me the opportunity to spend time with her. It allowed me to learn as she taught, instead of me being the teacher.

-Elaine Mathews, Westside High School

#124

I would have to say that the best Get Involved Moment would have been when I went to the school and dropped off a basket for the Fall Festival. I realized that my son was having a little trouble writing his name and the rest of the class wasn't. So every afternoon when he got home we would work on his name. The day he didn't have to trace his name was the best day for me because he was so proud of himself that he did it like a big boy and at that moment tears filled my eyes and I was so proud of him. I felt that us working together as a team was the best thing ever.

-Charlie Wisham, Perry Primary School

#125

At home, we have an alphabet hung on the wall. Every picture or painting that's sent home, we have hung up making a border around my son's wall. We play alphabet games every day, even on the weekends and on YouTube. I truly do my best to be involved as much as possible and bring his learning home from school.

-Ashley Brown, South East Elementary School

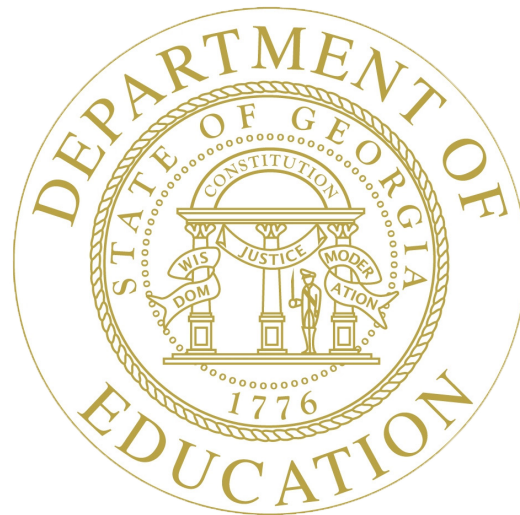
Do you have a best

GET INVOLVED

moment that you would like to share?

**Let us know, by logging on to the PIC Network Blog
and filling out the best GET INVOLVED form!**

<http://gadoeparentengagement.edublogs.org/have-a-best-get-involved-moment/>



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