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Reflection: Research on Correlation between Parent Involvement and Student Success

“Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first” – a beautiful quote by Mathew L. Jacobson. Children generally look up to their parents first and that is why I think it is important to do a research on the effects of parent involvement in elementary public school students. The research question that I hope to answer is: Does parent involvement positively affect the academic success of public elementary school children? I have chosen this topic because of my interest in learning more about my major, particularly in elementary education. I am interested in learning about what other programs are available, with the innovative technology that is involved, how schools are becoming more competitive, and how parents contribute to their children’s overall academic success. My hypothesis is that parent involvement will positively affect children’s ability to read, comprehend, and build their vocabulary and therefore, succeeding in school. Although this topic is a bit case-sensitive in terms of the roles of being a parent, I wanted to find proof that parent involvement is important. Most people are engrossed in their work schedules, chores, and even technology that it is hard to find time to focus on being an active and involved parent in their children’s learning. I don’t regret choosing my topic because, 1) I learned how to properly use quantitative research design methods, 2) I learned the positive effects of parent involvement, and 4) I learned how the school promotes parent involvement.

An inexpensive and easy way to collect and analyze data is by using quantitative research design such as interviews, questionnaires, or surveys to collect data. In the beginning, I found SurveyMonkey to be very convenient because it was easy to formulate questions for my survey with its available features that helped me organize and plan how my survey would look like. However, I was only limited to ten questions, which made it quite difficult, especially for the additional questions that I thought would really impact my research. I made two separate surveys – one for parents and one for the public in general. I learned that this would be good for me to distinguish between parents and others for my demographic data collection. To collect data, I mainly distributed surveys via email and also interviewed people for my research project.

Through my research, I concluded that my hypothesis is correct. I learned that students with involved parents have better grades, attend school regularly, have better social skills, get their homework done, feel more positive about school, and are more likely to get promoted into a higher grade level. In addition, I learned that children with involved parents borrow the maximum amount of books from the library and enjoy reading. They are also more behaved and think creatively and critically by asking several questions during lecture. Teachers also conclude that students with involved parents have no problem with moving up to the next grade level and they generally have a letter grade of A+ and B+.

Finally, I learned that the school implements and support parent interactions with events such as progress report days, report card days, Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) meetings, family fun night, open house, and the Motherread/Fatherread Program. For instance, in the Motherread/Fatherread program, parents are taught creative reading activities for the benefit of their children. In the end, they are also awarded with school supplies for their children that include free books for future reading. After interviewing a librarian, who is also associated with the program, I learned that students whose parents regularly attend the Motherread/Fatherread program, attend school regularly and borrow the maximum amount of books at the library.

As an aspiring elementary school teacher, I want to promote parent interactions and provide materials that will help support student learning. My overall research was a memorable experience that I think will be helpful with my teaching career in the future. I think my research will definitely be useful with my future lesson plans for the benefit of children learning. I also want to become more socially involved with parents to inform them about the status of their children and inform them about any room for improvement.