

## Quick Tip: Confronting the “We Already Tried That” Syndrome

Honestly, there may not be very many strategies left to engage families that haven't been conceived and tried by educators. Unfortunately, more often than not, the ideas were quickly abandoned when they did not provide the expected outcomes. Later, when the idea is revived, a chorus of “we tried that already and it didn't work” rises up to meet the new (old) idea. In most cases, the strategies were good ones. The reason for their failure or poor outcomes had little to do with the strategy and more to do with the lack of developing empowering practices for success. List those things that you have already tried and then apply the concepts of family efficacy to them. You will see, when you try them again, an improved outcome!

Things We Have Tried	Looking Through a New Lens of Efficacy: What Can We Do Differently?

## Questions to Ponder

1. How often do you provide families information about their children's academic progress?
2. How do you encourage family involvement with creating enhanced home learning environments and activities?
3. Are your school planning and curriculum documents available to families?
4. Does your school require conferences with all families of students?