

Home Visits

Clifton Elementary School

Clifton, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

When working to create lasting home-school partnerships, the first step of the process is often establishing a welcoming environment where parents and families are able to relax and begin to open up to partnering with educators. Clifton Elementary School staff build positive relationships by engaging in home visits with families in their schools.

This work is initiated by the Family Center Coordinator and done in small steps in order to not overwhelm families. The coordinator begins by speaking generally with teachers, students, and their families and presenting herself as a resource. The first individual conversation with families is critical, as it is a time for the Coordinator to show her true interest, sincerity, and desire to build on positive attributes of the families. Once initial contact is made, she follows-up by sending home information, resources, and invitations for school events to the families. After this contact, the Coordinator then discusses a time to come for a home visit.

The home visit itself is very intentional so as to not overwhelm families – it does not last more than 45 minutes, and the Coordinator focuses on ways that home-school relationships can be built, and specific ways that she can support the family. Additionally, the Coordinator brings with her an example of the student's best work in order to showcase his/her abilities and demonstrate pride in the student.

The Coordinator serves a very important role in the home visit process and the progression towards building home-family relationships. She acts as the liaison between the teachers and the families and students, and helps to break through any challenges to partnering. She is the point of contact, and is often the person that begins to build the authentic, positive relationships with the families. She maintains a list of best practices and common mistakes for home visits that she employs in her work.

These types of home visits are important and influential for a variety of reasons. Families who are visited in their homes may be more likely to feel comfortable in building a relationship. As parents and guardians feel included in student learning, success is more likely for the students and all other parties involved. Home visits that are intentional and authentic make a true impact on the entire family and school community.