

PACT Instructions

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is not only essential to the success of the Early/Head Start program but to the individual lives of each of the children participating. Parents play the most important role in their children's lives. Parents affect every aspect of a child's life: self-esteem, health, values, behavior, and readiness for school and later success in life. With that in mind, parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child's education by volunteering in the program, participating in family activities or events, providing valuable feedback to the program, etc.

What is PACT? (Parent And Child Together)

- PACT activities provide opportunities for parents and children to play and work together in a learning environment that supports child development.
- Provides opportunities for positive parent-child interactions.
- Promotes and enhances the roles of parents as their child's first and most influential teacher.
- Promotes healthy family relations and demonstrates how parents can support their child's learning.

Overall, PACT activities enhance parents' efforts to support their children's development and success in school. By providing opportunities for positive interaction, we encourage parents to develop the joy, desire and routine of working closely with their children: observing, talking, questioning, listening, reading, playing and teaching.

1. Parents **MUST BE** involved not only in the activity/event but in the planning, as well.
2. Be mindful of site logistics and restrictions (and how to make appropriate accommodations).
Example: limited parking and possibly planning the event over multiple days (by classroom) to account for that limitation.
3. Sign-up sheets are encouraged before the event, especially for family meals so you can discuss menu and counts with the cook. Also, remember **parent reminders are important!**
4. On the **PACT Request Form**, fill in all of the information on the front page and mark the corresponding PFCE (Parent Family Community Engagement) goal that the activity focuses on, on the back page. This form is fillable on the website, to mark the goal electronically, double left click on the gray box by the goal you want to mark. A pop-up box will appear, in the middle of the box click on "Checked" and then "Ok".
5. Print copies double-sided. **(The second/back page is required!)**
6. Send any needed **Purchase Orders in the same email** to your Site Leader, Education Manager and the Family Services Coordinator for approval.
7. There is a **Family Event Sign-in Sheet** on the website to be used for PACT/Family Meals/Parent Workshops – please fill this out and return even if no one attends your event.
8. Keep track of the number of attendees each month to **add to your monthly report.**