

# Five Resources for Family Engagement: Communicating with Families

Engaging families to support student learning is an important role for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). Because parents have so many competitors for their time and attention, communicating efficiently and effectively is an important key to keeping parents aware of student progress. These five free resources will provide you with examples of ways to communicate with families.

1. **Remind** This is a safe way for educators to send text messages to students and parents. Staff can send one way messages, announcements or reminders to students and teachers that are free, efficient and sent in seconds. Staff never see students' phone numbers and students never see the staff's number. <https://www.remind.com/>
2. **Edmodo** This is a K-12 social learning community where teachers, students, and parents can connect safely and securely. Staff can share lesson plans, assignments, updates or track student progress. There is also a parent account that allows parents to stay informed of important information regarding their child. This web resource is an excellent way to connect a student's learning after-school, during the school day, and at home. <https://www.edmodo.com/>
3. **A Dozen Activities to Promote Parent Involvement** Education World published an informative article on how to engage parents in schools so that they feel more welcome. The article lists 12 suggestions for involving families. Tip #4 provides links to printable resources that can be sent home to parents each month (Sept-May). These printable resources are helpful, ready to use tools that can help in communicating with parents. [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/curr200.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr200.shtml)
4. **Mobile Devices for Learning: What you Need to Know (English/Spanish)** Keeping up with the latest technology that students are using can be challenging for parents. This is a free guide through Edutopia that can help parents and students better understand mobile gadgets, such as cell phones, tablets and smart phones. <http://www.edutopia.org/mobile-devices-learning-resource-guide>
5. **Calling Parents** Making personal phone calls to parents can be a rewarding but sometimes intimidating experience. These resources provide staff with tips they can use when calling parents. Edutopia describes the importance of calling parents to let them know about positive behaviors their child has been showing. The link includes a short script on making positive phone calls and a snippet video about the importance of making positive phone calls. <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/power-positive-phone-call-home-elena-aguiar>

**Here are 5 tips that staff can use when calling parents about any behavior:**

<http://www.uted.net/files/phonecalls.pdf>

**This link provides tips for communicating successfully with bilingual families:**

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/19382/>