



The Effectiveness of a Parental Involvement Program in Taiwan

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Abstract

Recent years, some researchers have noted the importance of parental participation in their children's learning. If parents provide support, care about children's school life, and help out with homework, for example, improved test results and overall performance often result.

The authors believe that science education ought to begin at home, reinforcing parents' knowledge as well as helping the children to learn. To date, however, relatively little work has been done on this topic in Taiwan. A three-year project was set up to emphasize this point. In the first year, the study was to explore parents' view about parental involvement in their children's education. In the second year, the study was set up parental science learning groups and evaluated the effectiveness. In the third year, the study was concerned about the influence by using take-home inquiry science activities. The results revealed parental science learning groups and take-home science homework could improve parents' attitudes toward science activities and interact with their children. Moreover, it is worth to enhance parents attitudes to involvement in their children's' education, and carry out take-home science activities. Parents could have more opportunity for a number of interactions with their children at home. While this study has its limitations, it is hoped that it can serve as a basis for further study in engaging parents involving in their child's science learning.