



The Great First Eight Curriculum Family Engagement Approach PreK-3 & PreK-4/TK

In Great First Eight, we recognize that families are children's first and most enduring teachers. We help teachers learn from families. We provide opportunities for families to learn from one another. And we share with families ways they can support children's curriculum-related learning at home.

In Great First Eight PreK-3 & PreK-4/TK classrooms, teachers and families have daily opportunities to learn from and with families, including through:

- ★ Talking at pick-up and drop-off
- ★ Weekly text messages about what children are learning and how to help
- ★ Phone calls
- ★ Seesaw (a digital platform for sharing children's work)
- ★ Family-teacher conferences
- ★ Feedback on children's work
- ★ School/community events celebrating children's learning
- ★ Opportunities to volunteer

Our family engagement approach also includes:

Beyond the Walls Visits:
Individual visits in which teachers and families meet to get to know each other and set goals for the child's learning

Project Overviews for Families:
A handout describing what children will do and learn throughout the 20-day unit, and the different ways families can be involved

Children's Portfolios:
A portfolio that showcases children's work at specific points in a project and key experiences in each unit

Family Studios:
Get-togethers in which families learn with one another and the teacher about ways they support children's learning through everyday activities at home

- We include many family members, not just parents
- Educators learn from and with families to support children at home and at school
- The goals and cultures of families and the community are honored



Great First Eight's approach goes beyond traditional "parent involvement"

For more information about the pathbreaking Great First Eight Curriculum, please contact us at GreatFirstEight@stand.org.