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# Education Plus

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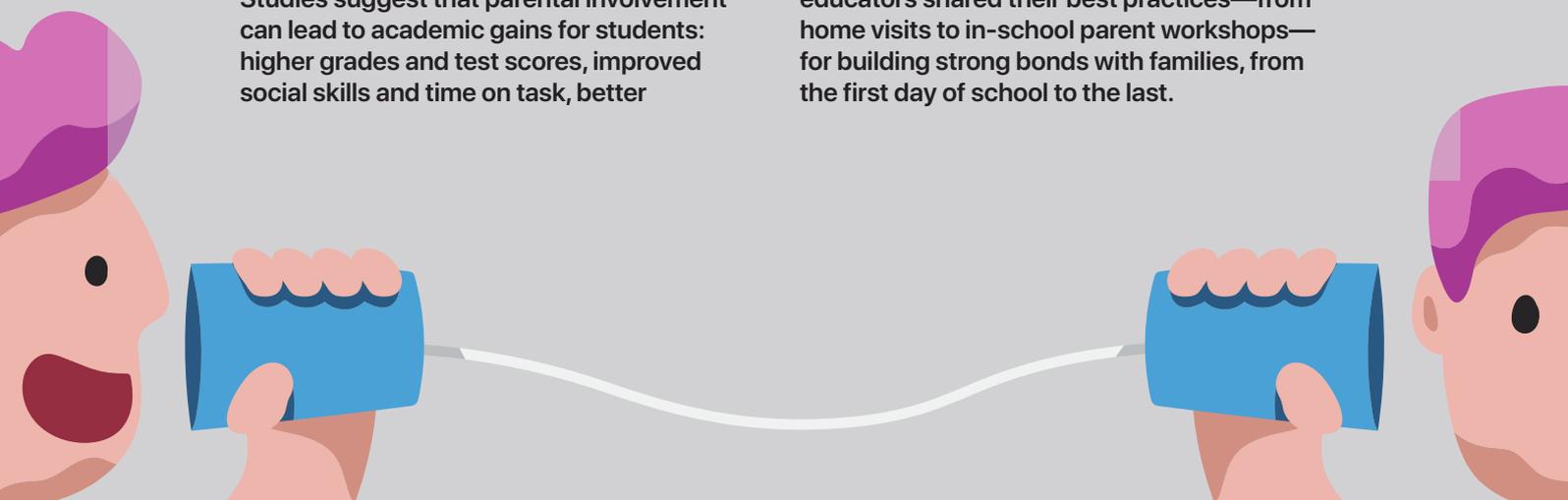
## Teacher-Parent Communication Strategies to Start the Year Off Right

By prioritizing communication with families at the start of the school year, educators can foster strong parent engagement, break down barriers, and provide support for all students.

Studies suggest that parental involvement can lead to academic gains for students: higher grades and test scores, improved social skills and time on task, better

attendance and participation, and decreased behavioral problems in the classroom.

Though parent-teacher communication will always require a mutual effort on both sides, educators shared their best practices—from home visits to in-school parent workshops—for building strong bonds with families, from the first day of school to the last.



## GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START

Establishing strong relationships and clear lines of communication at the beginning of the year sets a strong foundation for parent-teacher interactions, according to teachers.

- Opening reliable channels of communication: Not all parents communicate the same way.
- Get active on social media: Sharing & posting regular information about how students are progressing and engaging with lessons at school.
- Real-time tech tools: Platforms like Seesaw or ClassDojo allow kids to share their learning with their parents directly through the app and make real-time updates easier.
- Give parents a nudge: Simple text reminders—sometimes called “nudges”—can help parents help their children stay on track.

Research shows that the more deeply a parent is involved in their child’s learning, the larger the impact on the child’s achievement and performance in school.

- Show off your families’ strengths: Give parents a chance to highlight their talents, experiences, and skills to get them more engaged.
- Empower students to explain their best work.
- A more inclusive calendar: One way to show families of diverse learners that they are an important part of the community is by creating an inclusive school calendar at the beginning of the year

## BRING THE PARENT INTO THE CLASSROOM



Sources:

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/teacher-parent-communication-strategies-start-year-right>