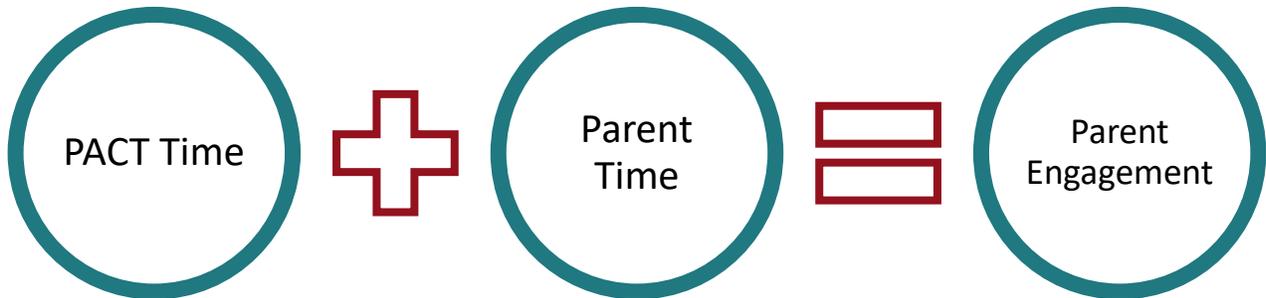


## Parent Engagement for Flex-Time Families

Parent engagement, which includes both Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time® and Parent Time, can look different at each site depending on your program and families. For parents that cannot participate in the adult education class on a full-time or part-time basis, they must commit to a minimum of two hours each week for parent engagement activities. This is accomplished by the program working with parents, finding what works for them, and thinking creatively about ways to support families in meeting this goal.



Below are some examples of ways that programs can set up their Parent and PACT Time activities to meet the needs and schedules of flex-time parents.

### PACT Time Tips

- **PACT Time in the Preschool Classroom Schedule.** Invite parents to come into the classroom and participate in PACT Time. Programs can offer PACT Time opportunities within their daily schedule and at times that fit parents' schedules. Depending on their availability, not all parents will have the same schedule for PACT Time.
- **PACT Time on Days without Preschool.** Have PACT Time in the classroom on a day that school is not in session. For example, on a Friday, offer a PACT Time opportunity in either the morning or afternoon to accommodate parents' schedules.
- **PACT Time Events in the Community.** Facilitate a PACT Time in the library, chapter house, or other locations that can be educationally enriching for children.
- **Take-home PACT Time Activities.** Have parent and child activities planned for families to take home and complete. Have them use a PACT Time log to track the time that they spend engaged in these activities. Have a variety of at-home activities available each week to choose from so that when families complete one, they can choose a new one to take home. Activities can be posted on a bulletin board in the adult learning classroom.
- **PACT Time Reading.** Encourage families to check out children's books and audio books. Include with the books information on oral language development, interactive shared reading, dialogic reading, alphabet knowledge, and phonological awareness. Provide families with a reading log where parents and children track the book titles, authors, and the time they spend reading together, as well as tracking time in discussions and activities related to the book.
- **Special Family Engagement Events.** Host family engagement events that provide opportunities for parent and child engagement in the evening, on the weekend, or during school hours. Events could include reading nights, family math workshops, book-making sessions and computer learning

activities. These events could be scheduled jointly with other school activities such as parent teacher conferences.

## Parent Time Tips

- **Connect with PACT Time.** Before PACT Time, set aside time with parents to introduce a new topic or skill that will be the focus of the PACT Time and will help parents be actively involved in their children's learning. Focus on topics such as asking open ended questions and supporting their children's vocabulary development. Encourage parents to reflect after PACT Time. Have parents think about how they were able to put the focus into action, what they observed in their children, and what they might do differently during the next PACT Time.
- **Weekly Parent Class/Meeting.** Have weekly Parent Time, either during school hours or on a day when preschool is not in session. Provide activities for the children so the parents can fully participate.
- **Parent Coaches.** Designate parent leaders in your FACE program who have experience in PACT Time and Parent Time and who would be effective and willing to be coaches for other parents. This is a great way to connect new parents with parents who have been enrolled and participating in the program. Have the parent coaches guide and support the new parents as they learn about the FACE program and the different components. Have the parent coaches document the topics that come up in their conversations with the new parents so they are able to work with the adult learning teacher to support the new parents with Parent Time information and activities.
- **Home Visits.** With approval from the administrator, the adult learning instructor can make home visits to families who are not able to come to the school. The adult learning instructor can provide support for at-home study and parent engagement topics during the visit, as well as discuss with the parents what and how their children are learning in school.
- **Individualized Parent Time.** Together the FACE team can schedule meetings with parents to get to know them and learn more about their strengths, interests, needs, and goals. Provide Parent Time information and activities that parents can use for self-study. Customize the unit of study according to the parents' goals. Be sure to work with the parent to find the best way to get feedback and debrief the self-study unit, whether this is in person, on the phone, or via email.
- **Monthly Individualized Meetings with FACE Staff.** Schedule monthly meetings with flex-time parents and FACE staff to discuss how children are progressing, ways parents can support their children's learning, and what the FACE staff might do to further support the family. If parents are able to come to school for these meetings, an added advantage is the increased awareness of their children's classroom learning environment.
- **School /Community-Sponsored Workshops.** Encourage parents to participate in parent-focused workshops and meetings at the school or in the community, that would contribute to their learning and leadership.