

All the activities we suggest in this chapter and throughout the book can take place in the community as well as in the school. Go where your families hang out: community centers, supermarkets, nail salons, churches, Laundromats, recreation facilities, parks, and families' front porches.

## Helping Families Understand What's Happening in the Classroom

The ways that teachers teach and students learn have changed immensely in the past twenty years. When today's parents were last in

### TIPS FOR LINKING TO LEARNING

#### Do more

- Displaying student work, along with scoring guides to rate levels of performance
- Contacting families regularly about student progress, through Friday folders, notes, and phone calls
- Holding math, literacy, and health nights, and family-questions-about-school events
- Offering student-led family conferences, where students discuss their work and assess its quality
- Holding workshops for families on planning for college and information about college admission standards

#### Do less

- Featuring teacher-made bulletin boards with themes such as "Autumn Colors"
- Calling home only when students misbehave or are in trouble
- Offering parenting classes
- Focusing on student behavior and shortcomings at parent-teacher conferences
- Hanging posters about drug abuse and teen pregnancy