

Schoolwide Community Building Activities

ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

1. Inclusion and Participation

- All parents, children, and school staff members are invited to participate freely in schoolwide activities, particularly those designed for families to enjoy together.
- Invitations are warm, welcoming, and nonthreatening.
- Activities are designed with attention to special language, cultural, economic, and child care needs of the participating families.

2. Cooperative Environment

- Children and families are able to enjoy cooperative, noncompetitive activities that promote the value of learning together and helping others.
- Everyone succeeds at learning; there are no losers.

3. Emphasis on Helping Others and Taking Responsibility

- Children are given the opportunity to experience the value of helping others.
- Everyone takes responsibility within and outside the community.

4. Appreciation of Differences

- Parents, children, and school staff members feel that their social and cultural backgrounds are valued and respected within the school community.
- Everyone is encouraged to share his or her cultural heritage and learn from them.

5. Reflection

- Everyone is encouraged to reflect on what has been learned from the experience or working together.

