



## Involved Parents Improve Schools

Now is the time to think about implementing a CRISS for Parents workshop in your school or district. Anytime in the school year will work, but we hear from parents that they prefer learning about the principles and strategies early in the school year, so they can start supporting their children right away. Think about combining the workshop with a back-to-school-night or holding it after the first marking period when parents find out if their children are succeeding or struggling.

CRISS for Parents is a very important component of effective Project CRISS implementation. In a review of recent research done by the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory in 2002, researchers found when parents are involved with their children's schools, no matter what their income or background, the students are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and receive higher test scores.
- Pass to the next grade level and graduate.
- Attend school regularly.
- Have fewer behavior and discipline problems.
- Enroll in advanced programs.



Thank you to Carol Avery and her Odessa, Texas, participants for allowing us to include their pictures in our newsletter.



### Setting up a CRISS for Parents Workshop

Here are a few things to keep in mind.

- The workshop must be facilitated by a certified CRISS trainer.
- The trainer will need four to six teacher\* and/or student\* assistants to guide the various CRISS strategy centers. (\*Pick the CRISS "stars" in your building.)
- Parents (or guardians) and students attend together to make the session a fun and educational family experience. Each family unit receives a *CRISS for Parents* flip booklet. To see pricing, visit <[www.projectcriss.com](http://www.projectcriss.com)>, click on How to Order> Support Materials.

If you want CRISS to operate successfully in your school and if you want your students to succeed, organize a CRISS for Parents workshop NOW! For schools and districts that don't have a CRISS trainer on staff, contact Stacy in the CRISS office to set up a session, 1-877-502-7477.

### Reference

Henderson, A.T. and Mapp, K.L., (2002). A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, Austin, Texas.

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