The Early Truancy Prevention Project
Agenda

- Introductions & Project Overview
- Teacher Consent Forms and Documentation
- Home Visiting
- Attendance Interventions
- * Lunch *
- Online System Overview
- iPhone Distribution
Home Visiting
Why should teachers conduct a home visit?
To develop a trusting and collaborative relationship with the parents and child.

To learn about the child and the family by listening to the parent as the expert.

To identify family strengths to draw upon later to support their individual child, or to support a class event (i.e. a parent from another country may volunteer to tell the class about their native country and language).

To share the importance of school attendance with parents.

To answer parents’ questions and put them more at ease.

To spend one-on-one time with the child (which is hard to accomplish during the regular school day) in order to get to know the child better, to make him/her more comfortable with the teacher and excited about school.

To gain a better understanding of the child’s home environment and his/her access to academic materials and other resources.

To change parents’ and teachers’ assumptions about each other.

To increase parents’ and teachers’ level of comfort when working with each other.

To increase parents’ understanding of the role(s) they can play in their child’s education, and to encourage their involvement at home and/or school.
Potential barriers to home school collaboration
Parents and teachers may not be comfortable communicating with each other.

Parents may be uncomfortable visiting the school.

There may be cultural differences in the way parents are expected to interact with the school in the United States as compared to the parents’ native country.

Schools may have a limited definition of parental involvement including only parental involvement at the school, rather than a broader definition that recognizes the value of parent involvement at home, parent communication with the teacher, and parent support for school rules and expectations.

Parents may lack phone, transportation, child-care, or time off from work.

Parents may be ill, caring for elderly parents, or have other responsibilities that make becoming involved at school difficult to accomplish.

There may be a language barrier between parents and teachers.

Parents and teachers may make erroneous assumptions about each other.
Conducting a Home Visit

- How to Schedule a Home Visit
- Conducting a Successful Home Visit
- Home Visit Documentation
  - Home Visit Reflection Form
  - Document Visits Online
  - 2 home visit updates to Erika via email
  - Home Visits NOT Completed
Home Visit Reflection Form: Example of survey on iPhone
Attendance Interventions for Target Students
Intervention Discussion

- What is a target student?
- Barriers to attendance
- Intervention strategies that match identified barriers
- Intervention documentation online
Activities Focused on Parents and Caregivers

- Include school start/end dates
- Discuss importance of attendance and on-time arrival
- Describe attendance policies
- Describe bus policy
- Build a positive relationship
- Discuss importance of attendance
- Ask for parent commitment
- Via phone or in person
- Share concerns if student is frequently absent or tardy
- Discuss student/family barriers to attendance
- Send a letter documenting number of child absences or tardies and the plan for moving forward

Activities Focused on Other Family Members

- To understand attendance barriers
- Brainstorm possible solutions

Activities Focused on Students

- About attendance barriers
- Brainstorm possible solutions with their input
- Importance of attendance and on-time arrival
- Share your concerns about their attendance
- Give them information about the number of tardies or absences they have

Phase I. Information Gathering and Information Sharing

Activities:
- Send introductory letters
- Conduct initial home visit with all families
- Parent conversation
- Follow-up

Learn

Discuss

Talk with target student

Talk with other family members
Phase II. Initial Interventions and Consultation

**Parent Interventions**
- Document time of arrival each day and each absence
- Schedule an in-person meeting
- Share the calendar
- Brainstorm solutions
- Create an attendance “contract”
- When a child attends school or arrives on time
  - Leave a voicemail
  - Talk to parent after school
  - Send a note
- Thank the parents
- Consult with:
  - Research team member
  - Clinical or child psychologist
  - Principal, social worker, nurse, transportation or bus driver
  - Prior teacher
  - Current teachers of target student’s siblings

**Transportation Interventions**
- On the bus
  - Establish a “bus buddy” system
  - Rotate adult on the bus
- Help families
  - Offer before/after-school child care, free or scholarships
  - Help families create “carpools”
- Create a “late bus” to pick up missed children
- Have a school van to pick up children if no other options exist.

**Consult with Professionals**
- Make a calendar
- Conduct a targeted home visit
- Thank the parents
- Consult with:
  - Research team member
  - Clinical or child psychologist
  - Principal, social worker, nurse, transportation or bus driver
  - Prior teacher
  - Current teachers of target student’s siblings

**Student Interventions**
- Praise and positive attention
  - Give when target student come to school on time
  - Create calendar or sticker chart for target student to track attendance or on-time arrivals
  - Individualize it for target student

**Work with admin**
- Phase II. Initial Interventions and Consultation
  - Consult with:
    - Research team member
    - Clinical or child psychologist
    - Principal, social worker, nurse, transportation or bus driver
    - Prior teacher
    - Current teachers of target student’s siblings

- **Consult with Professionals**
- **Parent Interventions**
- **Transportation Interventions**
- **Student Interventions**
**Phase III. School-Based and Community Referrals**

**Refer to Professionals at School**

- Initiate SAT meeting
- Refer to social worker
- Refer to school counselor
- Refer to school psychologist
- Refer to school-based wellness
- Truancy court

- Student assistance team with school staff to focus on attendance and related issues
- Social worker can make contact with family
- For severe behavior problems, anxiety
- For academic testing
- For issues that may be affecting child attendance
- To address health issues affecting attendance
- If available

**Refer to Outside Professionals**

- Collaborate
- Work with school social worker when referring
- Mental health care
  - Child and family psychologist
  - Counseling center
- Medical care
  - Pediatricians or other medical professionals
Thank you!