

Community Focus Statement F: Increase educational opportunities for youth and adults in Muscoy.

Action Statement F.3: Coordinate with the San Bernardino City Unified School District and the Baker Family Learning Center in further developing existing parent engagement classes.

F3

Benchmark: Information disseminated to all parents in Muscoy about parent engagement classes and ensure they have the opportunity to participate.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Variable, depending on the program.



Image Source: [Regent University Graduate School of Education](#) – Parenting engagement class.

Parent engagement classes and programs aim to support and strengthen existing parenting abilities and promote the development of new skills. Parents gain the ability to carry out child-rearing responsibilities and provide their children with enrichment opportunities. Classes can be geared toward parents with children ranging in age from infants to teenagers, depending on the interests and needs of the community. A variety of topics could be covered, including motor skill milestones, health and diet, safety, and discipline. Parents would also be connected to appropriate resources to receive appropriate advice, should a particular problem arise in their homes.

In addition to gaining parenting knowledge, parents can also meet and connect in the context of parent engagement classes. Parents will gain a sense of camaraderie with those in similar walks of life. This connection is particularly important for first-time parents, who may feel isolated or overwhelmed. Parents of older children could serve as mentors for new parents. Connections in parenting classes could lead to other community building opportunities, such as new playgroups.

The San Bernardino City Unified School District and the Baker Family Learning Center, through the Head Start Program, have the facilities, materials, and equipment available to further develop parent engagement classes at the request of the community. Continued input from parents currently involved and outreach to gain more involvement will assist in developing the classes. Class graduates should provide input in regard to their experience and how it could be improved for incoming parents.

Case Study: [Parenting Success Network](#), parenting support for Oregon families in Linn and Benton Counties

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a public meeting to create an Advisory Team	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino City Unified School District
2. Contact residents who have participated in parent engagement classes, and gather feedback about the existing program.	Advisory Team	Years 1 – 3	http://www.sbcusd.com/ Baker Family Learning Center http://www.sbclib.org/LibraryLocations/MuscoyBakerFamilyLearningCenter.aspx
3. Review feedback and identify specific improvements to the existing program that would make the parent engagement classes more accessible to the Muscoy community.	Advisory Team	Years 1 – 3	Head Start Program https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs Funding Sources: US Department of Health and Human Services https://www.hhs.gov/
4. Secure additional resources as identified in Action 2 (additional volunteers, increased grant funding, etc.).	Advisory Team with Baker Family Learning Center	Years 1 – 3	Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc
5. Create a class schedule with both formal classes and walk-in hours. Track attendees and popular classes and times.	Advisory Team, Baker Family Learning Center and School District	Years 1 – 3	Building Communities from the Inside Out, <i>Kretzmann and McKnight</i>
6. Revisit the curriculum to ensure it is up to date. Solicit input from class participants about what they enjoyed about the class and what could be improved upon.	Advisory Team, Baker Family Learning Center and School District	Annually	Livestrong.com: http://www.livestrong.com/article/102973-should-parents-parenting-classes/ Child Encyclopedia: http://www.child-encyclopedia.com/parenting-skills/according-experts/community-based-parent-support-programs