



## **Pedagogical perspective: Parents**

Many studies show a significant positive effect of parent involvement on the functioning of children at school. This applies to both learning performances, behaviour and working attitude (Desforges & Abouchaar, 2003 and Henderson & Mapp, 2002). Although, parent and school partnerships are very successful and seem very logical, they don't take place on a large scale. Only if the school has an open attitude, there will be a high degree of involvement of parents (Vries, P. de, Boer, H. de, Cijvat, I. & Voskens, C., 2008).

A school with an open attitude, also called an open school, gives students more opportunities. For example, by learning in the real world, with real problems and a real audience. Learning is more meaningful and it will increase the motivation of students. An open school will also contribute to the development of important education skills. Creativity, communication, collaboration, problem solving and building a network are skills which can be developed much better outside the classroom. To provide students with many possibilities, a school must work together with its entire community, such as businesses, parents and policy makers.

The Open Schools for Open Societies Project aims to achieve an improved collaboration between school and its community, including parents, through the implementation of an open school approach at a thousand primary and secondary schools in Europe. The Open Schools project collects and shares good examples of and for participating schools. Parents can contribute by visibly supporting this approach, by involvement in educational activities or by connecting their own network to the school.

To find out more about Open Schools for Open Societies and to become part of this project, contact the participating schools or the National Coordinator. If your child's school is not yet taking part, our national coordinators can help you to bring that school into contact with this project.

### *References*

- Desforges, C. & Abouchaar, A. (2003). *The impact of parental involvement, parental support and family education on pupil achievements and adjustment: A literature review*. London: Department for Education and Skills, Research Report 433.
- Vries, P. de, Boer, H. de, Cijvat, I. & Voskens, C. (2008). *Een onderzoek naar de rol van ouders in het primair onderwijs*. Amersfoort: CPS.
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