



## PACT Time With School-Aged Children & Their Parents

The adult education teacher, with assistance from the certified classroom teacher leader and others, holds a planning session to determine when, where and how to begin the PACT Time schedule. The PACT Time Schedule may look very different from school to school, depending on when adult education classes meet.

### PACT Time During the Regular School Day

- Ideally, parents and children participate in PACT Time on a regular schedule, arranged by the adult education teacher and the child's classroom teacher. PACT Time could occur every day, twice a week, or as often as other schedules allow—keeping in mind that research tells us that frequency and intensity of PACT Time yield greater results. If there is more than one child in a family who will participate in PACT Time (and often there is), the parent should be scheduled into each class on a regular basis, so that all children benefit.
- When parents cannot be immediately scheduled into the individual classes of their children, consider using another classroom that all children visit during the week, such as a media center or computer classroom. Parents could be scheduled to visit the class to coincide with their child's schedule, which could provide a starting point for bringing parents into their child's individual classroom.

### PACT Time After Regular School Hours

- When parents attend adult education classes after regular school hours, a planned PACT Time occurs on a regular basis as part of this after-school session. Children will often take part in a homework/special activities session while their parents attend adult education classes, and then parents and children come together for PACT Time. This may involve all parents and children in the computer room, media center, or other appropriate classrooms that all students attend.
- Special after-school classes could be planned on a rotating basis by teachers who have family literacy students during the regular school day. With a little extra planning, this PACT Time could involve students from several grade levels. For example, an open-ended lesson centered around reading a book aloud may invite children and parents to respond in different ways that are developmentally appropriate for different age levels. Responses could be verbal, written, or through art or other mediums, depending on the academic level of the children.

**Note:** School-based PACT Time works best when students have more choice in what they do and when the activity is less teacher-directed. During independent work or activities, children can pursue their own interests with minimal instruction.

### PACT Time and the Home Connection

- Schools can identify materials that are available for home use. Staff need to plan activities that will connect the home experience with the school experience.
- Many learning activities can utilize household items. Staff can help parents identify these items and plan activities that focus on a variety of skills, which can be connected to the child's school experience.
- Determine when and where home-based PACT Time is appropriate. Staff often make home visits during the summer months to share activities with families, to bridge the gap between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next. Keeping literacy a family focus during these summer months will help to keep students achieving throughout the school year.

### PACT Time in Other Settings

- There will be many other opportunities when PACT Time can occur. Field trips and other special events will help to engage parents and children in learning as they are supported by the teacher.