

The InvestiGator Club®

Family Engagement for Alignment with ACS/DOE Citywide School Readiness Goals and Strategies

Family members can make a critical difference in a child’s first school experience. **The InvestiGator Club® PreK Learning System** gives you the tools you need to keep family members actively involved.

The InvestiGator Club includes a detailed collaboration plan for families and teachers/caregivers so two-way communication is fostered and the decision-making process is shared and effective. Here are some ways that the InvestiGator Club implements this plan at the classroom/group level as well as the individual level:

<p>Before the School Year Begins</p>	<p><i>Individual and Classroom/Group Level Collaboration and Decision Making:</i> Families complete the At-Enrollment Family Survey from the Assessment and Intervention System to tell about their child (individual), about their family (individual), and their ideas about what they want from preschool classroom experience (classroom/group).</p> <p><i>Two-Way Communication:</i> Teachers/caregivers meet with parents on a “back to school night” to distribute and discuss the Family Welcome Guide.</p>
<p>Throughout the Year</p>	<p><i>Classroom/Group Level Collaboration and Decision-Making:</i> As described in the Research and Professional Guide on pages 71-122, families meet with the teachers/caregivers on an ongoing basis to plan classroom activities and help guide the direction of learning and progress.</p> <p><i>Individual Collaboration and Decision-Making:</i> Families meet with teachers/caregivers about their child to discuss, choose, and implement intervention strategies (found on the back of each Assessment Card in the Assessment and Intervention System) for developmental milestones and skills with which the child needs assistance.</p> <p><i>Classroom/Group Level Collaboration and Decision-Making:</i> Behind the Family Involvement tab in each Teacher Guide, there is a suggestion for a Family Investigation Night—an interactive, hands-on, “big event” that gathers families to experiment together. This event is often planned and implemented by families who choose or more events to complete during the year.</p>

	<p><i>Two-Way Communication:</i> Each of the 7 Teacher Guides in the program includes a Home-and-Back story, journal, and family letter that invite families to read at home and then send back a journal page that they completed together as a family. This can be found behind the Family Involvement tab in each Guide.</p> <p><i>Two-Way Communication: The InvestiGator Club Website</i> (www.investigatorclub.com) offers the ability for teachers and parents/caregivers to correspond and for parents to download at-home, themed investigations, enjoy child development articles, and attend webinars alongside teachers and caregivers so everyone can be part of the process.</p>
<p>Upon Closing the Year</p>	<p><i>Individual and Classroom/Group Level Collaboration:</i> Families complete the End-of-Year Family Survey from the Assessment and Intervention System to tell about their child (individual), about their family (individual), and their ideas about what they want from preschool classroom experience (classroom/group).</p>