

Tool:	Home Visits
Category:	Families
Urban Specialist:	Vicki Wells
School Level:	K-12
Target Audience:	In-service teachers and novice teachers
References:	Parents' Role in Student Success: What Research Shows, Retrieved September 23, 2001, from Partners for Public Education, "The ABC's of Parent Involvement in Education," National Parents Day Coalition on the World Wide Web: www.schoolsuccessinfo.org/factsheets/research.phtml

Rationale: One of the predictors of a child's success in school is parent involvement. In urban schools, there are many reasons why parents do not become involved in their child's school. Home visits can act as a bridge between the home and school. Through home visits, a teacher can provide a link to instructional strategies, provide instructional activities, and identify factors in the home that might have an effect on learning.

Description: Home visits are a way to bridge the gap that urban teachers often find between the school and the homes of their students.

- If possible, do the home visit with a partner. This can be the school social worker or another teacher who has visits to do also
- Call the parent prior to the visit to schedule a convenient time.
- During the visit, explain to the student's family classroom procedures and any other pertinent information. This could be the type of information that was given to parents on Parent Information Night.
- Take suggestions for activities that the parent can use at home to help with the child's academics.
- Provide an atmosphere that invites the parent to initiate contact with the school