

THE FOUR MAJOR KINDS OF PARENT PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL HEAD START PROGRAMS

1. Participation in the process of making decision about the nature and operation of the program.
2. Participation in the classroom as paid employees, volunteers or observers.
3. Activities for the parents which they have helped to develop.
4. Working with their children in cooperation with the staff of the center.

IMPROVING CENTER AND CLUSTER MEETINGS

Center and cluster meetings can be meaningful and important to parents and staff if an interesting agenda is planned and notice of the event is timely.

Tips for Improving the Meetings:

1. Parents and staff should jointly prepare the agenda (a list of items to be covered at the meeting).
2. Notify parents of the meeting one week in advance.
3. Arrange for child care, transportation, snacks, special supplies one week in advance.
4. Open the meeting with a warm-up exercise or ice breaker.
5. Try to put the most pressing or current business first so that the important matters will be discussed before the members have to leave.
6. Provide a special event for each meeting. This is one of the real keys to keeping parents interested and keeping your attendance high.
7. Plan the special event for the next meeting before the meeting ends. Assign tasks, if necessary.

