
PARENTING RESOURCES PACKAGE

Winnipeg School Division No. 1

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Want to know what to do when you have a problem at your child's school? How about information on student assessments and evaluation? Perhaps you would like to know what parents can do about bullying, and you need this information in Spanish, Chinese, Laotian, Punjabi, or one of the many other languages translated for families in the Winnipeg School Division No. 1. The *Parenting Resources Package*, developed and distributed by the Parent Education Committee in Winnipeg, addresses these topics and much more. The Parent Education Committee is comprised of school administrators, consultants, teachers, volunteer coordinators, and a parent representative.

The *Parenting Resources Package* provides parents and professionals who work with parents information about the many resources available to them in the Winnipeg School Division No. 1. Specifically, the resource package aims to: (1) share best practices of school, family, and community partnerships in Winnipeg schools; (2) provide information and support to families in the community; and (3) support and enhance the home-school connection.

The *Parenting Resources Package* includes the following:

1. **Home-School Connection** – a collection of Winnipeg School Division No. 1 schools' best practices of school, family, and community partnerships based on the framework of six types of involvement.
2. **Brochures** – a listing and samples of brochures produced by the Division which are of interest to parents, including “Chat Rooms: Guidelines for Parents,” “AIDS: A Parent's Guide to AIDS Education in Schools Grades 5 and 6,” “Parent Help Line,” and “A Parent's Guide to Special Education.”
3. **Audio-Visual materials** – a listing of audio-visual resources related to parenting, and suitable for individual or group use. All materials are available for loan through the central resource library.
4. **Books** – an annotated list of books on parenting, literacy, home-school partnerships, and homework/study strategies. All materials are available to parents or other interested individuals from the central resource library.
5. **Workshops** – contains descriptive information on workshops for parents and volunteers scheduled during the school year. All workshops are free.

6. **Websites and Help Lines** – contains a selection of family-oriented websites and information about a Parent Help Line.

All information in the *Parenting Resources Package* is updated annually in the spring. Each school receives a survey to submit new initiatives for inclusion in the Home-School Connection section.

The Parent Education Committee distributes the resource package to all Division schools at the beginning of the school year. Copies are sent to the principal, the parent council, the school resource teacher or guidance counselor, and the parent resource room or school library. These recipients are guided to make the resource package readily accessible to all parents. In September 2001, the committee developed a distinctive poster to advertise the *Parenting Resources Package*, and schools display the poster in a highly visible area. Information from the *Parenting Resources Package* is also posted on the Division's website.

There has been an increasing demand for the *Parenting Resources Package* from year to year. Parent groups as well as individual parents have utilized the audio-visual materials and books. Increasingly, more parents have attended workshops. Schools have gained new ideas for school, family, and community partnership practices, and professional staff and parent councils have had easier access to information applicable to their purposes.

The *Parenting Resources Package* is one means of acknowledging the important role that parents play as their child's first teacher and recognizing them as valued partners in the educational process. By supporting parents and involving them in an active and meaningful way in their children's education, the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 is in turn benefiting students. This package is an effective and efficient means of sharing resources and information among schools, families, and others to support students.

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