

## Math and More

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*Hillery Park Early Childhood Center  
Buffalo, New York*

**A**fter reviewing previous student test scores, the Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) at Hillery Park Early Childhood Center decided to strengthen connections with parents to support math achievement. The school believed students might perform better on the New York State Math Assessment Test if parents had a greater understanding of the test and how they could assist their children to prepare. The ATP organized a workshop devoted to understanding the math assessments.

The school staff personally called parents to invite them to the workshop and sent letters home twice to inform them of this important event.

The two-hour workshop began with parents enjoying refreshments while listening to the principal and fourth-grade teacher talk about the tests. Parents then looked over last year's test so that they could acquire firsthand knowledge about the types of test questions their children would be asked to answer. Once they had finished, teachers distributed hands-on materials that parents could use at home with their children to prepare them for the test.

This practice cost about \$400 and was funded primarily by Title I. A local business agreed to provide refreshments through a contract with the Board of Education. Additionally, parent volunteers helped set up for the workshop.

After participating in the math workshop, parents began encouraging their children to improve their behavior and pay more attention in class. One parent said, "My child is only in first grade, but I will start getting her ready

for fourth grade now." The hands-on materials distributed at the workshop helped parents prepare their children. Teachers were excited about parents' interest in playing a greater role in their children's math education and that parents better understood the math assessments.

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