

# *Growing Together*



## **Why Parental Involvement?**

Research tells us that children learn up to 60% of what they will ever learn before the age of three. These years are vitally important to our children. As parents and educators, we want to provide the best environment in which our children can develop to their fullest potential.

Jersey Community Unit School District # 100 offers a variety of parent involvement opportunities for parents and families of children 0-3 years of age. Programs offered include:

- ☺Prevention Initiative
- ☺Home Visit Program
- ☺Parenting Classes
- ☺Parents As Teachers
- ☺Parent/Child Play Days
- ☺Baby Signs®
- ☺Ages & Stages Monitoring
- ☺Child Find Screenings
- ☺Smooth transition to PreK



## **Program Descriptions**



### ***Home Visit Program***

Our Growing Together At Home Program is available for parents and families with children 0-3 years of age. A parent educator will come to your home when your child is newborn and then weekly, every other week or monthly thereafter until the child reaches age three. You may enroll in this program at any time prior to your child's third birthday. During a typical home visit, the parent educator will discuss your child's development, read to your child, provide home activities, share appropriate parenting program information with you, and answer any parenting questions and/or concerns.

### ***Parenting Classes***

We offer a variety of classes on topics of interest to parents. Topics may include effective discipline, communication, cooperation, sibling rivalry, self-esteem, toilet training, language development, and social and emotional development.

## ***Parents As Teachers***

The Parents As Teachers program is designed to give developmental information and support to all parents of infants and young children. The goal of the program is to help parents give their child the best possible start in life. Through home visits, group meetings, screenings and community resource network information, Parents As Teachers will help inform you of what you can reasonably expect of your child at each stage of development, help you be a good observer of your child, help you have fun playing with your child with age appropriate activities and materials, and help you be your child's first and most important teacher.

## ***Ages & Stages Monitoring***

Ages & Stages is a child monitoring questionnaire that is completed by the parent. This questionnaire starts at age 4 months and continues to 36 months. The purpose of the questionnaire is to help parents follow the developmental stages of their child more closely and help track the child's developmental progress.

## ***Parent/Child Play Days***

Parents get together to discuss a parenting topic while children attend a supervised playgroup. Parent and child then participate together in a related fun activity. Other play days may consist of parent and child coming to school to read and engage in literacy-related activities based on children's books. Other play days include discovery days where parent and child participate in an interactive activity to discover and explore the world around them.

## ***Baby Signs®***

Over two decades of research has shown that teaching your baby sign language provides many benefits of children and their parents. Baby Signs reduces tears, tantrums and frustration, makes learning to talk easier, boosts self-esteem and self-confidence, stimulates intellectual development and strengthens the parent-child bond.

***Our birth – three programs encourage parents, children and teachers to Grow Together in positive ways. Come join the fun!***

