

Examining Our Own Cognition

Answer the following True or False questions to provide a quick and realistic readiness check for working with parents. For each question, circle T for True or F for False.

1. **T F** Some families do not value education.
2. **T F** Families who are interested in their children's education will come to school meetings.
3. **T F** Families need to come to the school to be involved.

Use this space to jot down notes about any experiences that have contributed to your answers:

Myth-busting: What the Research Tells Us

1. Myth: “They don’t value education.”

Research: Families from all backgrounds report a desire to be involved, want their children to do well in school, and hope that their children will achieve a better life.

Gandara 2011 & Weiss, et al, 2009

2. Myth: “If they were interested ... they’d come to meetings.”

Research: Parents need to:

- Feel welcome and invited by the school to participate
- Feel capable of making a contribution
- Understand how the U.S. system works
- Know their role in the partnership with educators

Hoover-Dempsey & Sandler, 1997

3. Myth: “They have to come to school...”

Research:

- Parent activities at home impact student achievement.
- Parental aspirations and knowledge of the education system are the most important predictors of college success.

OECD, 2011, SEDL, 2012

