

TERRI'S TIPS

Parent Mentors share ideas and resources with one another on a daily basis. [Terri Goodridge](#), mom of a young son receiving special education related services and a Bibb County Parent Mentor, files our parents' tips in categories, so she can share information.



When our children and students hear the words, "Back to school", they may feel anxious, sad, annoyed, nervous or excited. As Parent Mentors and parents, it is our job to do the best we can to help ease these feelings, find ways to make it fun, and help make family life a little more manageable during this transition into a new academic year.

Here is some advice from Parent Mentors. I hope you find this helpful and creative!

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS

What Parent Mentors are doing!

Tip: If you are not sure if your school district has a parent mentor go to the "Find A Mentor" tab on the menu bar at the top of the page and scroll down to see if your district is listed.

Pam Moore, Madison County Parent Mentor shared....

On July 28, 2011 The Family Connections Collaborative annual Back to School Rally took place at Madison County Middle School. Free school supplies and a hot dog supper were provided to anyone who had a child registered in school, preK-12. Lots of door prizes were also given away.

Families, who arrived early, were rewarded with the "Welcome" session on Family Engagement by letting them go through the supply line first. The Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator and Madison County Parent Mentor Pam Moore gave a brief presentation and asked families to sign a Pledge card for family involvement.



Michael Jones, Walker County Parent Mentor shared....

Each year, [UGA produces a Back to School Newsletter and Media Kit!](#) which is free to distribute among your school communities.

Information may also be shared, reproduced, or replicated. The newsletter is in English and Spanish.

They also produce media kits that include audio and video PSAs as well as articles, photos and a list of experts.

Schools are also free to air or use the PSA's as needed.

James Butler, Lamar County Parent Mentor shared...

LAMAR COUNTY COMMUNITY-WIDE & TITLE I: BACK TO SCHOOL BASH! To be held on August 6, 2011.

The event is being held at the Lamar County Parks and Recreation Track Field.

Various supplies are donated by community groups, local businesses, churches, Lamar County Schools, and individuals. Book bags and school supplies are being given out to PreK-12th graders (Families must visit a certain amount of vendors in order to receive the free supplies).

Anne Ladd, Gwinnett County Parent Mentor shared....

Great ideas from information shared at the 2006 "Engage All Families Conference". These are ideas of activities to use when doing back to school type events with families in your schools or districts:

Family Reunion Color Code nametags for grade level and connect new parents with returning parents.



A Family "A"-Fair- "A"ttendance, "A"cademics and "A"chievement:

How can you make a difference?

Cruise on In Each parents receives a boarding pass with the various destinations on Family engagement.

Helpful Websites with Parents in Mind:

- [NASP Resources](#) – Helping children achieve their best. At home. In school. In Life.
- [Special Education Advisor has a helpful Back-to-School Tips page](#)
- [Learning Disabilities](#) website shares four Back to School Tips
- [A one page "Survival Tips"](#) with some solid, real life tips for any family.
- The Family Education website has an extensive list of clickable links for [Back to School Resources](#).