

A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL TEAMS ON SHARING FAMILY RESOURCES

HOW TO USE HOME CONNECT

Home Connect resources are meant to feel like support, not a scorecard. This guide gives school-based teams a simple approach for sharing them, so families experience "we're with you," not "you're not doing it right."

WHY IT MATTERS

Families are far more likely to use a resource when it arrives inside a relationship, not ahead of one. The same resource can land very differently depending on how it's introduced:

- "We see what's going well and want to build on it" → openness, follow-through
- "Here's what you need to fix" → defensiveness, resource sits unopened

Home Connect works best as part of a relationship that already feels supportive. It's not the first thing a family receives from school, and not something that shows up right after a hard day.

THE HOME CONNECT APPROACH

CONNECT → INVITE → OFFER → FOLLOW UP

1. CONNECT FIRST

Before sending anything, make sure the relationship has some warmth already in it. A quick positive contact, like a call, a note, or a nice connection at pickup, goes a long way before a resource ever gets shared.

TRY: "I wanted to reach out because I've noticed [something genuine and positive] about your child."

2. INVITE, DON'T MANDATE

Offer the resource as something you're sharing with a family, not assigning to them. Language that supports choice increases follow-through, while language that feels controlling decreases it, even with identical content.

TRY: "I came across something that might be useful, wanted to pass it along in case it's helpful."

AVOID: "Please make sure you're doing this at home."

3. OFFER THE RESOURCE, FRAMED SMALL

Share one or two matched resources at a time, not the whole Home Connect set. One small, targeted step beats a full packet of strategies. Families are more likely to try, and stick with, something that feels doable and specific to their child.

TRY: "I noticed [something specific], so I thought this one might be a good fit."

AVOID: Sending the full resource set as one packet or attachment.

Each Home Connect resource already includes its own "Try It This Week" step. Let that be the ask. There's no need to add anything on top of it.

If the student has a behavior plan or is on CICO, this is where real alignment happens. Choosing a resource that matches a skill already being targeted at school, using the same language and same small step, creates consistency between home and school without adding anything new for the family to learn. This is often the best way to decide which one or two resources to share.

4. FOLLOW UP & NOTICE PROGRESS

A brief, warm check-in closes the loop and signals this was genuine support, not a one-off assignment.

TRY: "Just checking in, how did it go trying that this week? Just wanted to see how you're doing."

A note on the Quick Check and Reflect sections in each resource: these are for the family's own private reflection, not something to request back. Asking families to complete and return them turns a support tool into an assignment. It's not a scorecard, and not a follow-up gotcha.

WHAT TO SAY / WHAT TO AVOID

INSTEAD OF...

"You need to work on this at home."

"This is what's expected."

"Let me know if you have questions."
(one-directional)

Sending right after a hard day

TRY...

"I wanted to share something that's helped other families in similar moments."

"This is optional. Take what's useful, leave the rest."

"What's working for you at home already? I'd love to build on that."

Sending during a calm, positive stretch

SAMPLE EMAIL / COVER LETTER

Hi [Caregiver Name],

We are sharing a short family resource that offers practical ideas for supporting your child at home. Remember, meaningful behavior change takes time. We encourage you to start small and stay consistent.

To keep things manageable, this resource includes:

- Simple ideas you can try right away
- Examples of what to say
- One small step to focus on this week

We hope this feels helpful and supportive for your family.

In Partnership,
[DISTRICT / SCHOOL / TEAM]
[Insert Link or Attachment]

QUICK CHECKLIST BEFORE SENDING

- ☐ Has this family heard something positive from school recently, separate from this resource?
- ☐ Does the message offer the resource as optional support, not a directive?
- ☐ Am I sharing one or two matched resources, not the whole set?
- ☐ If there's a behavior plan or CICO in place, does this resource align with a skill already being targeted?
- ☐ Is there a plan to follow up warmly, regardless of outcome, with no request to return the Quick Check or Reflect sections?