

**FAMILIES FIRST**  
A Family Education/ Involvement Program

This is a model program for Baird Independent School District/Early Childhood Program. This program is to meet the needs of the community based on two criteria 1) Address the need to support and promote family involvement as well a school and parent collaboration for the well-being of students educational and developmental needs. 2) Meet the needs of a school faced with the hardships of a community and population that are socially and economically disadvantaged.

The intent of the program is to address parent involvement as one of the eight National Education Goals and embraces the spirit of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B, which makes provisions for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The emphasis of Part B is family participation in the process of developing interventions for young children. This process requires that families tap into skills and resources to meet the needs of their children. In rural communities resources are not as readily available as in larger cities. Often families lack the knowledge, experience and or skills to address their child's needs.

The purpose of the program is to make the needs of the family a priority, hence Families First (FF). The FF program will provide family education to support their role as the child's primary educator and to support them in their endeavors to enhance their child's development. There are three major components of the program; 1) Family Education 2) Network Lunch, 3) Parent/Child Interactive Activity. Through this program, the family's involvement will ultimately impact their child's language, social and emotional development. The impact in these critical areas will promote the development of essential skills needed to promote academic success of children throughout their educational career.

Contact : Lisette Spraggins  
Region 14 ESC  
1850 Highway 351  
Abilene, Texas  
325-675-8676