



## YOU CAN PARTNER WITH PARENTS—HERE'S HOW

We know the biggest spiritual influence in our students' lives is their parents. So as leaders, our job is to partner with parents so they can continue the conversations we're having at Switch with their students at home.

Figuring out how to partner with parents can feel intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. We're not trying to lead students' parents—we're just trying to set them up for success. So, how can you practically partner with parents?

1. **Introduce yourself.** Show parents you're on their team and that you care about their student by introducing yourself to them. This could be through texting them, calling them, meeting them in the parking lot the first night, etc. No matter how you do it, make sure you let them know that they can come to you anytime and that you're here to support and pray for their student and their whole family.
2. **Be a resource.** We're not here to tell parents how to parent their students. But we do know that raising biblically-centered students takes a village. Show parents that you're on their team by being a helpful resource to them. Fill them in on what we're going to talk about at Switch that night, and give them a recap of what you discussed during group. Compliment their student when they ask a great question, and share any concerns you have about their student with them.
3. **Show up.** Parents know you'll be there at Switch to lead their student, but they'll be amazed when you show up randomly in their student's life. This can look like writing your student a card, texting the parent randomly to check in, or showing up at your students' games, recitals, and events. You may even get to sit with their parents and build a relationship that way. When you show up, parents see you being the church, and that's powerful.

Ultimately, we only get one night a week with these students, but their parents have countless hours with them. So, let's double our efforts by keeping parents in the loop about what our students are talking about and celebrating with them as their student takes next steps. And when we do that, we're not only influencing our students but also setting up families for success as they build their faith together.

**Talk through these discussion questions with your fellow leaders and Switch team.**

1. What tips do you have about partnering with parents?
2. What questions do you have about partnering with parents?



3. Have you ever felt like partnering with parents is awkward or uncomfortable? What did you do to overcome the initial discomfort?
4. What are some ways you've partnered with parents in the past? What happened?
5. How can you show parents that you're a resource to them?