

## Port Family Rings Closing Bell as Part of Parent-Child Home Program

Families, children and home visitors participating in The Parent-Child Home Program in New York City and on Long Island recently visited the New York Stock Exchange to ring the closing bell. They were joined by Parent-Child Home Program board members and staff. A Port Washington family and home visitor enrolled in the program participated in the closing. Two PCHP are currently running in Port Washington; one is run by the Port Washington library and other by the school district.

The Parent-Child Home Program is a national research-based and research-validated early childhood literacy and school readiness program. The program successfully strengthens families and prepares children for academic success through intensive home visiting. Since 1965, this innovative program has emphasized the importance of quality parent-child verbal interaction to promote the cognitive and social-emotional development that children need in order to enter school ready to be successful students. Today, in over 150 community-based replication sites across the country, The Parent-Child Home Program is helping families who have not had access to educational or economic opportunities to create language-rich home environments and to prepare their children to enter school ready to read and succeed.

Program participants perform better than their peers on school readiness assessments, score at or above national averages on standardized tests, and graduate from high school at the rates of middle-class students, 20 percent higher than their socioeconomic peers.

"The program is cost-effective and critical to our efforts to ensure that not only is 'no child is left behind,' but also that no



Port family members are (l. to r.) fifth from left, Lindira Kamanga and seventh from left, Ferosa Plotkin. The child in front of Ferosa is program participant Onome Igvide.

child starts behind," said Parent-Child Home Program Executive Director Sarah Walzer. "It has proven both in New York

and around the country that it is effective not only at preparing children to enter school ready to learn but also at ensuring

that those children experience long-term academic success and go on to graduate from high school."