Guide for Family Reading Parties

**Mission**

To provide a fun and comfortable setting for parents/guardians to:

* Gain knowledge of age-appropriate reading strategies
* Make book selections for their child(ren)
* Experience Pre-reading activities i.e., book walk, expand prior knowledge
* Help their child(ren) with new vocabulary words
* Use good questions to increase comprehension
* Read aloud to develop fluency
* Meet other parents and the classroom or reading teacher to discuss reading and homework issues in a friendly environment
* Network with other families
* Build a home library and resources like the public library
* Obtain a book and tip sheets to use at home

**Document and share successes with your Join-a School partners who will want to help expand this program at your school.**

*This program is designed for grades K-5*

**Role of the teacher/presenter**

Step 1:

Teachers discuss with your Title I Family Engagement team about having a Family Reading Party at your school.

It is best when several teachers offer to have this event the same date and time. Example: First grade party in Spanish, First grade in English and a 2-3 combo in Spanish = 3 teachers and approx. 30 parents.

Teachers can volunteer or be paid a stipend for being the presenter from parent involvement funds. Please check with your administrator if you have funds in your Title I Family Engagement budget. (112)

Step 2:

Teachers review class reading data to select 10 students that are in need of additional reading support. Set a date and time that is respectful of your families (some parents do better right after school and some will need evening).

Step 3:

Send home flyers and make phone calls to all parents you have selected. If some parents are not able to attend, move down your list and invite and call additional parents. It is best to have ten parents confirmed. If all parents do not show up you will be sending the book and reading materials home with the child the next day.

Step 4:

Select materials: books as well as many tip sheets from your school’s reading program. These books are only for instructional reading parties (FRP) with parents and may not be used for other purposes. When you get your books also pick up the other forms.

You will need to fill out a form at the Title I office (Name of presenter(s), contact information, school, date of FRP, Title of books taken).

Step 5:

The Family Reading Party should run between 30 and 45 minutes long. If your team has funds for childcare, EAs or other teachers can provide that service so that your meeting runs smoothly.

If your parent involvement team has funds for snacks talk to your secretary/principal in advance about getting snacks/drink for your FRP.

Step 6:

Have parents sign in on the FRP sign in list

Start your FRP off with an ice breaker and let parents get to tell a little about themselves

Present reading strategies based on the needs of your parent group and as determined by your reading assessments and school reading program.

Model reading techniques and have parents practice as appropriate

Allow parents opportunities to share “What works in their home”

Allow parents a time to ask questions. The reason this group is capped at 10 is to allow parents a chance to ask questions and feel comfortable.

Step 7:

Have parents fill out the short evaluation form.

Thank parents for attending.

Send copies to Title I by school mail or FAX within one week of the event:

1. Results form
2. Evaluations
3. Sign-in list

Reflect on the event and plan your next parent activity.

Thank you –

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