



## 10 Pointers for Family Fridays

- 1. Create** a welcoming environment.
  - Define the space with plants or rugs.
  - Use decorations & music to enhance the event.
  - Organize & offer refreshments donated by parents or provided by school.
  - Organize two areas to procure refreshments so there is not a long line.
- 2. Make sure** you can be seen & heard. Pre-check microphones each time to make sure they are working.
  - Create warm & professional way of beginning. Ritualize your opening.
  - Use a motivational quote, a funny cartoon, a short story, an appropriate joke or a meaningful saying.
- 3. Demonstrate** the reading/learning strategy to explicitly support student comprehension or success.
  - Conduct a demonstration, offer clear examples or model the targeted strategy.
  - Whenever possible, lead a guided practice of the strategy with the parents.
  - Post & review strategies covered so far. Remind parents of how much they are learning.
  - If the teachers are demonstrating a learning strategy in the classroom—reinforce it from the microphone.
- 4. Discuss** the importance of how family engagement is linked to the success of children.
  - Share a bit of parent involvement/literacy research each time.
  - Express confidence in the parents' ability to support their child as a more powerful learner.
- 5. Interact** with your audience: use group response techniques such as
  - Pair/share, small group share, showing/raising of hands, holding up fingers, thumbs up - thumbs down, or use response cards.
  - Provide audience opportunities to share out with entire group.
- 6. Add** high impact elements to stimulate and maintain interest.
  - Create & show a video demonstrating a parent & child using the reading strategy during a reading session
  - Project a slide show montage of parents reading with their child during Family Fridays as they enter the auditorium
- 7. Announce** & tell short stories about other parent events & involvement opportunities such as:
  - Any upcoming site-based workshops, Parent University, Dad's Clubs, Leadership & Governance opportunities, volunteer opportunities, PTA/PTO opportunities
  - Promote them with personal stories, written information & one or two parent testimonials.
- 8. Organize** the raffle & book give-away.
  - Periodically talk about specific books you would recommend they read with their children.
  - Create a sense of excitement & add to your professional/personal credibility.
  - Have color-coded system of books by grade level located in the room so parents can select the right level.
- 9. Provide** audience response cards or half-sheet evaluations every time.
  - Be sure to share summaries of evaluations & comments made by staff & parents.
- 10. Develop** a warm & professional way of ending.
  - Ritualize your ending. Use a motivational quote, a funny cartoon, a short story, an appropriate joke or a meaningful saying or group affirmation.