



# Raising A Reader Family Kick-Off

In order for the Raising A Reader program to be successful it is essential to have family engagement. We know getting families together for a meeting can be difficult so here are a variety of ideas for your kick-off event:

- Check in with each family personally. Start reaching out to families when they drop off or pick up their children before launching the book bag rotation. Keep a checklist to make sure you've talked with each family and given them any necessary materials.
- Host a meeting. Invite families to your home and talk to them about the importance of reading with their children from birth. Introduce them to the Raising A Reader program, show them the materials, and let them know when they can expect their children to bring home their first book bag.
- Kick-off week activities. In this folder you will find a list of kick-off activities to begin with children and parents 5 days in advance of passing out book bags. These activities will help get children excited to take their book bags home as well as help educate parents about the program.

If you're interested in doing more than one suggestion above, please do! The more information and understanding families have the more smoothly your program will run.

Raising A Reader is a partnership program. As teachers, you are our most critical ally. With the help of teachers and parents we can help put all of our children on a path to success.

If you need any assistance with your Kick-off or want additional ideas please reach out to Megan Chips at 412-352-7488 or [megan@readingreadypittsburgh.org](mailto:megan@readingreadypittsburgh.org).