



Raising A Reader Family Kick-Off

In order for the Raising A Reader program to be successful it is essential to have family engagement. Here are a ideas for your family kick-off event:

- Host a meeting. Invite families to your building 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.
- Add on to an already scheduled meeting. Are families already coming into the building? Great! Add a short presentation about Raising A Reader to the beginning or the end of your already scheduled event.
- Conferences. Take the last few minutes of a child's conference time to tell the families about Raising A Reader. This is also a great opportunity to talk with parents if they aren't participating in the program regularly.
- 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.
- Add information about Raising A Reader to your weekly or monthly newsletter. Add a section about the importance of reading with children from birth, how Raising A Reader works, and how parents are the key to helping their child succeed.
- 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.

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, megan@readingreadypittsburgh.org