



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:

- 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.
- Class Performance. Do you have an adorable parent performance scheduled? While mentioning all the work you've been doing be sure to talk about Raising A Reader and the impact it can have on children.
- 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.

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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 Cary Meyers, cary@readingreadypittsburgh.org.