

A Welcoming Environment for Families

As you plan a family read-aloud event, take time to consider how family-friendly your school or program is. The criteria listed below will help set the tone for your event and all year long.

Place a check mark (✓) beside items you do well and a star (*) beside new ideas you want to explore or implement.

- _____ Teachers, librarians or program staff consider parents, caregivers and family members an extended part of their teaching team.
- _____ Teachers, librarians or program staff know children's and families' home backgrounds, interests and cultures and consider these when planning for children.
- _____ Parents are welcome contributors of ideas and help plan activities for children.
- _____ Displays and materials reflect the cultures of the families, their community, and their own homes.
- _____ Display spaces reflect work and projects parents and children do together.
- _____ There is comfortable seating space for parents.
- _____ Books and other literacy materials are routinely provided to families for use at home.
- _____ Books provided for children's and parents' use reflect families, their cultures, languages and the community.
- _____ Parents and children have opportunities to read to each other and other participants in their native language.
- _____ Frequent opportunities are provided for parents to read and interact with their children, or with small groups of children.
- _____ Children and parents tell family stories and make up their own stories.
- _____ Children's and parents' home languages are valued.
- _____ The school or community library is often used and families are encouraged to check out books.
- _____ Opportunities are provided for children to listen to books on tape recorded by parents or other family members.
- _____ Oral tradition and storytelling are encouraged by inviting grandparents or community elders to share stories in their home languages or in English.
- _____ Families and community members are invited to talk about their work.
- _____ The various ways families celebrate holidays are respected.
- _____ Accommodations are made for communicating with parents with special needs, low literacy or English language learners.

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