

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IDEAS NOTEBOOK



Fairfax County Public Schools
Title I Office



Family Involvement Program Ideas

In 2004-2005, the Title I District Advisory Council representatives shared some wonderful parent involvement activities that were taking place in Title I schools in Fairfax County. District Advisory Council representatives decided that it would help all schools to have copies of those ideas for future reference. Hence, this notebook was developed.

During the 2010-11 school year, the District Advisory Council updated the notebook, idea submission forms and process, as well as contributed some new examples of family involvement practices taking place within schools.

Parent and family involvement is an integral part of the Title I law. We know that parent involvement has a strong, positive influence on student success.

If schools are looking for new ways to reach out and involve parents in their child's education, some of these ideas might be just what they are looking for!

If you have further questions, you may contact the Fairfax County Public Schools Title I Office at Fairfax Ridge, 571.423.4700.





FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN LANGUAGE ARTS



Fairfax County Public Schools
Title I Office





Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Language Arts

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: Books on Tape

School: Daniels Run ES

School Phone Number: 703.279.8400

Contact: Nancy Nelson; Kathy Polkinghorn

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

For each K-3 classroom and ESOL teacher we purchased 5 or 6 tape recorders and 40 to 60 books on tape. The books and tapes are housed in each classroom for struggling readers to check out once or twice a week to take home to listen to the tapes as they read the books. We encourage the children to listen to and read each story several times and to listen as a family.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Language Arts

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: Kindergarten Parents Support Literacy

School: Daniels Run Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.279.8400

Contact: Nancy Nelson; Kathy Polkinghorn

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Kindergarten teachers identify students who would benefit from extra assistance with reading at home. We invite the parents of those children to come to a session at the school to give the families tools to help their children.

We have interpreters and break into groups by language. The parents view the video Talking and Books, available in English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese. The videos are produced by Washington Learning Systems, <http://www.wlearning.com/>. Afterwards, we have a discussion about the video and the importance of having conversations with children before, during, and after looking at a book together. These conversations develop children’s thinking, comprehension, and verbal skills and can be done in their first language.

We discuss and demonstrate activities to develop and strengthen phonemic awareness, letter identification and formation.

Each parent takes home a packet of activities and a copy of Talking and Books and Talking and Play.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Language Arts

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home
Decision Making

<u>Title of Program:</u> Library Nights	
<u>School:</u> McNair Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.793.4800
<u>Contact:</u> Jill Silton	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<p>In an effort to increase parental involvement in children’s literacy and to promote the use of our school as a community “base,” McNair Elementary opened our library to families one evening a week for two hours. To begin this project, we surveyed parents to determine the most convenient day and time (Thursday, 6:00-8:00 p.m. for us) and then announced the chosen hours in a brightly colored flyer distributed to all families.</p> <p>The evening library is staffed by one or two paid and trained library assistants and is attended by a few teacher volunteers each week who are there to greet children and parents and to assist with book selection and simply to chat. We have a simple sign-in sheet for children to indicate their name and grade level so that we can track usage. Computers are on and available for internet access and reference materials are available to all. For next year, we may consider offering a read aloud or other literacy activity at a specified time.</p> <p>We have found that many parents come to the library hours not just to check out materials and leave, but to stay and read with their child. Families who do not have children at our school also came to the library after seeing it announced on the public sign in front of the building. As a school, we continue to dialog about the best way to handle check out – whether to allow students who attend the evening hours to take an extra book beyond the normal limit and we are considering issuing library accounts to parents so that they may check out additional books for their child.</p>	



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Language Arts

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

<u>Title of Program:</u> Our Family Scrapbook	
<u>School:</u> Crestwood Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.923.5400
<u>Contact:</u> Melissa Porfirio	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<p>Children are introduced to the concept of a family scrapbook through classroom readings of the big book "Our Family". Following classroom readings, each child takes the big book home for one night to share with his or her family. Along with the book, the children take home a translated letter explaining why the children have brought the book home (For example: We would like for you and your child to make your own scrapbook page. Please review the book together to see some ideas of what to include when you make yours).</p> <p>After the children have reviewed the book with their family, the teacher provides each child with a disposable camera to take home. Together the children and their families have one to two weeks to take pictures that they feel represent their family on their scrapbook pages. These may include family members, activities they do, and/or where they live.</p> <p>The children and their families return the cameras to their teacher and the teacher takes the cameras for developing and printing. Once the teacher has all pictures printed, the teacher sends home each family's pictures with the appropriate child. Together the children and their families choose which of the pictures are their favorites and will best represent what they want to write about on their scrapbook pages. As a family, they also discuss what they would like to write on their pages. To support family communication, teachers encourage the children and their families to have these conversations in their home languages. However, children can make notes, in English, of what they want to include as they write their scrapbook pages. The families keep all of the photographs they did not initially select for the scrapbook pages. The children bring in the selected pictures to help support their writing.</p>	

In school, with the support of their teachers, children write about their family, based on what they discussed with their families and any additional ideas they might have. As they work, children conference with the teacher and share ideas with their peers, so additional information or changes may naturally evolve. Families are welcomed into the classroom, as their schedules allow, to work on the project with their children. The children work on the project for two weeks. With the help of instructional assistants, each child's scrapbook pages are laminated to help preserve the finished product. Each child has many opportunities to practice reading his or her scrapbook pages in the classroom in preparation for the culminating family event.

A culminating family sharing activity (by grade level) takes place to celebrate the children's literacy successes and to continue to foster classroom and school community. Families gather by classrooms in the cafeteria. Each child, along with his or her family, shares their family pages with the other families in their classroom. To help reinforce what they learn from each other and about each other, each family brings in one favorite family dish to share with their class immediately following the language and literacy share. Beverages, linens, and utensils are provided by the school.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Language Arts

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: Partners in Print Family Literacy

School: Woodlawn Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.619.4800

Contact: Haley Kirk; Martha Lipscomb

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Four times a year the second grade teachers put together the Partners in Print Program. This program is designed for FECEP through second grade students and their parents. Teachers in other grades assist with presentation of the workshops, set up, food distribution and clean up. The workshops are divided into four groups depending on the themes. These workshops are done four times over a period of one school year. Parents/guardians bring their children to learn strategies and ideas to help them in the areas of reading and writing. This particular program is well received in the Spanish community and our parent liaison translates for our Spanish speaking parents.

Partners in Print is a commercial kit for implementing a family literacy program for beginning readers and their families.

Woodlawn Elementary School is committed to assisting parents, so that they may be able to help their children succeed in school.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Language Arts

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: Partners in Print Family Literacy - Upper Grades

School: Woodlawn Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.619.4800

Contact: Margaret Harbour

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Four times a year the third through sixth grade teachers and resource teachers hold a Partners in Print Family Literacy Program for Upper Grade students. This is for all students in grades 3-6 and their parents. The program is modeled after the lower grade Partners in Print program.

There are typically three or four workshops for the parents to attend, depending on the theme for the evening. Parents/guardians bring their children and together learn strategies for helping at home with reading and writing.

Teachers from other grade levels also assist with the set up, clean up, workshop presentations, and food distribution.

This program is well received by both the English and the Spanish speaking communities. The school parent liaison attends to translate as needed.

Woodlawn is committed to assisting parents so that they are able to help their children succeed in school.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Language Arts

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: A Reading Picnic (Partners in Print)

School: Glen Forest

School Phone Number: 703.578.8000

Contact: HaeMin Shin

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Glen Forest kicked off their first Partners in Print program for the year in August with a Reading Picnic. The theme of “You Can Read Anywhere, You Can Read Anything” was integrated into all aspects of the evening.

The families came to school in the evening, bringing towels or blankets to sit on. At sign in, the first 20 students were given a stamp on the back of the hand and allowed take a balloon home at the end of the night. Balloons were donated by Party City. The students also had an opportunity to enter a raffle to win a “surprise” from the Literacy in a Car station later in the night.

As the families entered the school yard, they were free to move along at their own pace to any of the stations that were set up. One of the stations was the Playground Treasure Hunt. Each child received a Lotto Card with some local business logos on them. The child had to look around the playground to find the signs, read them, and have a teacher stamp their cards. Upon completion of the Treasure Hunt, the students received a small, colorful picnic basket with some KEEP books. Another station was Literacy in the Car. Red, yellow, green, and blue painted boxes (cars) lined the blacktop with chalk drawn car lanes. All around the “cars” were street signs such as, STOP, DO NOT ENTER, and U-TURN. Inside each “car” was a map, a take home book provided by Title I, and a booklet on car games and activities for parents. The students were driving, reading, being read to, and looking at maps. A popular station was Literacy at the Beach. The area was full of books, towels, and bright beach umbrellas with parents reading to their children. They were also fishing for magnetic letters, digging in the sand for foam letters, and playing with alphabet beach balls.

Throughout the evening, parents and children were able to munch on snacks provided by the generous donations of local businesses: McDonald’s, Dunkin’ Donuts, Giant, Target, Popeyes, and Jerry’s Subs. All over the school yard, families were sitting on their blankets, meeting other families and school staff, reading with their children, enjoying their snacks, and partaking in the stations. The evening ended with the big “surprise” raffle, which raffled off the 20 box “cars” from the Literacy in the Car station. All of the families left with books to read as well as the reminder that reading does not take place only at school and in the home. Reading does indeed take place anywhere!



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Language Arts

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home
Collaboration with Community

<u>Title of Program:</u> Summer Reading Van	
<u>School:</u> Groveton Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.718.8000
<u>Contact:</u> Sue Ann Tupy, Kindergarten Teacher	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	

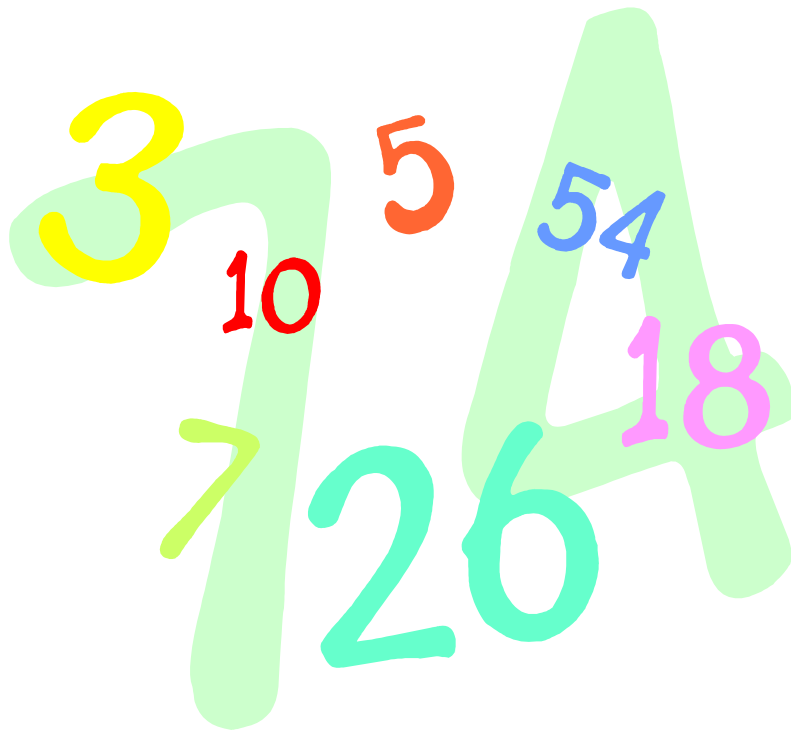
Description of Family Involvement Program:

Each summer, kindergarten teacher Sue Ann Tupy and her colleagues load up her minivan and drive books to three large apartment complexes within Groveton Elementary’s boundaries. They set out to recreate the “old” bookmobile of the past arriving every Wednesday in July. In the parking lot, Groveton children stand in line at the van to check out books to read.

The mobile library maintains a book collection of more than 4,500 titles for elementary and middle school students and parents. Over the years, the book collection has been expanded by private individuals and organizations, the Communities in Schools program, and Title I funds, The program is now known as the “Keep On Reading” program.

The parent community has been elated and has shown their appreciation by feeding volunteers with dishes from their homelands. There were 12 staff volunteers in the summer of 2004. Their enthusiasm of seeing former students and meeting new students helps with the transition each September. Preschoolers have been encouraged to join with their parents, too. Each year, new students receive a t-shirt and a book bag to carry their books home.

This initiative began small, with an idea created by a dedicated teacher, and has grown large every year. Partnering with local organizations has enabled the program to expand beyond it’s initial box of books and two volunteers.



FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS



Fairfax County Public Schools
Title I Office





Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Mathematics

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: Math + Fun = Arithmetickles

School: Braddock Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.914.7300

Contact: Debra Andrews, PTA:Cultural Arts

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Family MATH Night Program by Children's Theatre Center, Teaneck, NJ 1-800-341-3585

Arithmetickles is a one-of-a kind live theatre program that vividly demonstrates to children how math concepts they are taught in the classroom are applied to everyday life situations.

This innovative program offers a unique blend of audience participation, "kid-friendly" comedy, and storytelling that captures children's attention and encourages them to open their minds to the wonders of Math.

During this live performance, children at each grade level (K-5) are invited to join the Arithmetickles host on stage to play a variety of creative number games and solve math-related questions and puzzles using their creativity and imaginations. Parents, too, get involved in the fun when they're invited on stage to take part in a lively skit alongside their children. Everyone becomes a "star" of the show!

Math + Fun = Arithmetickles demonstrates to children and families that learning Math is exciting, challenging, and FUN!

Home/School Link:

Arithmetickles Teacher's Guide-Math Games and Activities to Do in the Classroom

Welcome to At Home with Math- Handout for Parents of Math Activities to Do Everyday to Help Your Child with Math, in English and Spanish



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Mathematics

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

<u>Title of Program:</u> Math Night	
<u>School:</u> Cameron Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.329.2100
<u>Contact:</u> Barbara Drayton, Title I Math Teacher	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<p>Math Night is held on two nights; one for K-2 and the other for 3-6. These game nights are for parents and children to play together. We use a variety of games and activities that reinforce math objectives and skills. The games are store bought as well as teacher-made. For the teacher-made games, at each station, there are take home copies for parents to keep. At the end of the night, parents are given a list of the purchased games we used, a list of literature (storybooks), that reinforces some math skills, and any other ideas that they can do at home with their children to help them learn.</p> <p>From 6:00-6:30, we serve pizza and sodas to the parents and children in the cafeteria. At 6:30 they go to the gym where they are given one door prize ticket and one number for rotation per family. They gather in the center of the gym for a short introduction and directions are given for rotations. Depending on how many games there are at each station and how many stations there are, each rotation lasts approximately 15-20 minutes. At the end of the last rotation, parents and children come back to the center of the gym for the drawing of door prizes. These prizes are math games, math storybooks, and math activities.</p>	



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Mathematics

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: Monday Morning Math

School: Bucknell Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.660.2900

Contact: Lois Lucas, Title I Math Teacher

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

We are inviting parents of 1st and 2nd graders as well as their children to a Monday Morning Math Group. We will hold four sessions before school over a two month period—two in February and two in March. Sessions will be held in the library beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 8:45 a.m. Students and parents will learn a game or activity to use at home. Students will be dismissed in time to start school at 8:40, after which, parents will have time to ask questions or voice concerns.

Sessions will be in both Spanish and English. We are using the book Family Math and Matematica Para La Familia (the Spanish version of the same book) to help plan the activities. We also will have books on math concepts in Spanish and English for parents to check out which are available from Metro Readers. One session will be on how to use a math handbook to help with homework or concepts that are difficult.

Parents who attend three of the four sessions will receive a math handbook from Great Source .



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Mathematics

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

<u>Title of Program:</u> Parent Math Meeting: The Math You Do...Your Kids Can Too (Summer Math)	
<u>School:</u> Woodley Hills Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.799.2000
<u>Contact:</u> Woodley Hills ES Math Team	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Goal: Encourage families to support learning at home during the summer months by using ideas, games (focused on games that could be played with decks of cards) and activities that connect to students' everyday lives. • Program Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Promote learning during the summer months o Share hands-on ideas and activities that are user-friendly and FUN o Reinforce basic math skills o Teach parents card games so that they can go home and teach their children to play math games • Parent Take Home Packets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Handout with computer websites with math games o Bibliography of literature books with math themes o Parent tip sheets o Reproducible games o Deck of cards for each family to play math games • Additional Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Babysitting was provided by the PTA o Desserts, coffee and soft drinks were provided by the WHES Math Committee and school funds o Door prizes provided by school funds o Literature books with math themes were on display in the library for parents to read o Additional math publications and parent handbooks were ordered from the VA Department of Education and distributed to parents at the meeting <p>We invited all parents to attend (FECEP-6th grade). We sent 2 flyers home in the Tuesday Take Home Folder and made several announcements on the AM and PM school news show. We held a dessert meet and greet for 30 minutes and then the meeting was held in the library for an hour. Parents were encouraged to share their experiences with math and ways that they use and reinforce math at home.</p>	



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Mathematics

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

<u>Title of Program:</u> Take Home Math Toolbox Program	
<u>School:</u> Woodley Hills Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.799.2000
<u>Contact:</u> Valerie Johnson, Title I Math Teacher	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Encourage families to support learning at home with educational games and activities that support the county program of studies, the VA Standards of Learning and the NCTM Standards o Share activities, strategies and tips with parents that will help to boost students' competence and confidence in learning math. • Program Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Promote family involvement by bridging the gap between home & school o Boost students' confidence as mathematicians and competence in learning mathematical concepts o Reinforce basic math skills through fun, challenging hands-on activities and manipulatives o Share practical ideas and strategies with parents so they can reinforce and support learning at home • Contents of Toolbox <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Games o Manipulatives o Parent Letter o Inventory Checklist o Game/Activity Feedback Form • Home/School Link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Parent Tip Sheets o Math Websites o Reproducible Games 	



FAMILY INVOLVEMENT: MULTIPLE ACADEMIC AREAS



Fairfax County Public Schools
Title I Office





Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas
N/A

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home
Two-Way Communication

Title of Program: Family Team Building Night

School: Crestwood

School Phone Number: 703.923.5400

Contact: Eve Hall

Email Address: eve.hall@fcps.edu

Date Description Submitted: June 2011

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

The goal of Family Team Building Night was to strengthen family relationships, coach students on accepting responsibilities at home and school, and encourage students to track goals with parental support including home discussions, parents modeling behavior, and school communication. One of Crestwood's School Improvement Plan goals is to increase student achievement in setting and achieving goals in grades K-6. Research shows that when parents and educators work with students to set goals, students begin to replace negative self-images with more positive perceptions of self and of potential to succeed. We thought that by bringing families into schools and coaching parents and students to work together on setting goals and responsibilities, our students would gain confidence and begin to develop self-motivation tactics for overcoming challenges both in academics and in the home. We also wanted to teach families about the importance of working together and supporting each other in achieving these goals.

- o Parents: translating goal setting charts into various languages
- o Teachers: logistics of the evening, classroom set-up, volunteering to lead sessions
- o Community Members: local restaurant discounted food order for the evening
- o Students: participated in the events of the evening
- o Administrators: participated and supported planning committee
- o Others: Spanish and Vietnamese translators- to provide translate of the presentations and assist with the workshops; high school student volunteers helped to set up, serve food and implement activities

We sent out fliers to parents in the 3 prominent home languages of our families (English, Spanish, and Vietnamese), spoke about the event at the PTA meeting, automated phone call from principal in the days leading up to the event, published in school newsletter and calendar, introduced to students on daily school news program and in the classrooms.

(Additional space, if needed...)

There were three major parts to the event: Dinner and opening assembly, team building games, and goal setting seminars.

Dinner and Opening Assembly:

This was held in two locations due to size of attendance—the cafeteria and the library. We served pizza and lemonade to all attendees and they were in the assembly for approximately 45 minutes. During the assembly they viewed a PowerPoint slideshow of the purpose of the night, what goal setting is, why goal setting is important, why Crestwood is interested in goal setting, goals appropriate for children, what parents can do to help children set and reach goals, the importance of celebrating meeting goals, and reflection and research behind the event. They were also given the agenda for the evening. The PowerPoint and agenda for the evening were available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Headsets were used for interpretation of the opening presentation in Spanish and Vietnamese. From the opening assembly, families were divided into two large groups and sent into the two break-out activities.

Team Building Games:

This was held in the gym. Team building games were set up around the room for families to compete together. Physical fitness based games included relays and team strategy activities such as Team Trekkers, Blindfolded Partner Obstacle Course, Mission Possible, and Wooden Egg Spoon Relay. The focus was on cooperation, trust, team-building, communication, and respect.

Goal Setting Seminars:

These were held in individual classrooms, led by teachers and interpreters, and families were separated by home language into small groups of 10-20 people in each room. Here, the teacher leaders guided families through the steps of setting and tracking goals with the aid of the attached PowerPoint slideshow. Weekly goal tracking sheets were available in various languages and adapted for home and school use. Students and their families were invited to fill out their goal sheets with teacher support during the seminar and also took home extra copies for future use. Several of Crestwood's classroom teachers also adapted the school chart for weekly use in the classrooms to maintain consistency throughout the rest of the school year. Interpreters provided direct interpretation for Spanish and Vietnamese since this was a smaller format.

Some major challenges were making sure all documents and PowerPoint slideshows were translated, gathering accurate RSVP information for food and supplies, and space needs within the building on the night of the event. We overcame these challenges by having print information that was not translated communicated verbally to non-English speaking parents, serving food and hosting opening assembly in two separate locations, and being flexible as the night went on! Another obstacle Crestwood faced that night was inclement weather. Most of our families walk to school and it was difficult to estimate numbers on the night of the event when we knew that weather may hinder attendance.

(Additional space, if needed...)

There were three major parts to the event: Dinner and opening assembly, team building games, and goal setting seminars.

Dinner and Opening Assembly:

This was held in two locations due to size of attendance—the cafeteria and the library. We served pizza and lemonade to all attendees and they were in the assembly for approximately 45 minutes. During the assembly they viewed a PowerPoint slideshow of the purpose of the night, what goal setting is, why goal setting is important, why Crestwood is interested in goal setting, goals appropriate for children, what parents can do to help children set and reach goals, the importance of celebrating meeting goals, and reflection and research behind the event. They were also given the agenda for the evening. The PowerPoint and agenda for the evening were available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Headsets were used for interpretation of the opening presentation in Spanish and Vietnamese. From the opening assembly, families were divided into two large groups and sent into the two break-out activities.

Team Building Games:

This was held in the gym. Team building games were set up around the room for families to compete together. Physical fitness based games included relays and team strategy activities such as Team Trekkers, Blindfolded Partner Obstacle Course, Mission Possible, and Wooden Egg Spoon Relay. The focus was on cooperation, trust, team-building, communication, and respect.

Goal Setting Seminars:

These were held in individual classrooms, led by teachers and interpreters, and families were separated by home language into small groups of 10-20 people in each room. Here, the teacher leaders guided families through the steps of setting and tracking goals with the aid of the attached PowerPoint slideshow. Weekly goal tracking sheets were available in various languages and adapted for home and school use. Students and their families were invited to fill out their goal sheets with teacher support during the seminar and also took home extra copies for future use. Several of Crestwood's classroom teachers also adapted the school chart for weekly use in the classrooms to maintain consistency throughout the rest of the school year. Interpreters provided direct interpretation for Spanish and Vietnamese since this was a smaller format.

Some major challenges were making sure all documents and PowerPoint slideshows were translated, gathering accurate RSVP information for food and supplies, and space needs within the building on the night of the event. We overcame these challenges by having print information that was not translated communicated verbally to non-English speaking parents, serving food and hosting opening assembly in two separate locations, and being flexible as the night went on! Another obstacle Crestwood faced that night was inclement weather. Most of our families walk to school and it was difficult to estimate numbers on the night of the event when we knew that weather may hinder attendance.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Social Studies/History
Technology

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: Social Studies~Technology Night

School: Braddock Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.914.7300

Contact: Jane Jordan, SBTS

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Social Studies~Technology Night brings children and families together to experience the "FUN" in learning Social Studies. Children participate in games and activities that are based on the essential knowledge required at each grade level to meet the objectives of the Fairfax County Program of Studies and Virginia Standards of Learning. Social Studies~Technology Night gives families the opportunity to see firsthand what their children are learning in the classroom. Following is a summary of the activities:

*Kindergarten - Famous American activity using computers and rolling cube to identify Who's Who.

*1st Grade - Economic activity - Identification of coins and money Bingo game.

*2nd Grade - Native American activity on the ACTIVboard and other 2nd grade topics playing Bingo.

*3rd Grade - Ancient Cultures - Fly-Swatter games and laptops to visit Ancient Civilization sites.

*4th Grade - Maps of Virginia - Identify regions and products of Virginia.

*5th Grade - Archaeological Dig - A large sand table becomes an archaeological dig where students search and identify artifacts based on different ancient areas, plus laptops were set to site of Ancient Egypt hieroglyphics.

Other activities included a Coin Toss where children tossed coins from other countries onto a map to locate the nearest country, continent, and ocean; and storytelling sessions were led by teachers who dressed as famous Americans and shared their life stories. Also, children could go on a Scavenger Hunt to find other famous Americans and once they identified them all, they were given prizes. Most of all, children enjoyed seeing the teachers dressed as famous Americans!



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Social Studies/History

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: Virginia Night

School: Bren Mar Park Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.914.7200

Contact: Amanda Baxter, 4th grade teacher

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Virginia Night is an interactive evening developed by the Social Studies Committee and implemented by all the teachers at Bren Mar Park. All students (K-5), along with their families, are invited and encouraged to come to this event. The PTA sells food and snacks before and during the event in the cafeteria. Students are given goody bags when they arrive. The goody bag consists of a Virginia map, Virginia pencil, and brochures for a variety of attractions throughout the state. Students and parents are entered in a drawing to win door prizes. The prizes are awarded to two students in each grade and 2 parents. The student prizes were colonial games and the parent prizes were donated by local businesses.

Teams of teachers choose, prepare and facilitate various activities that highlight our states geography, economy, and history. At our last Virginia night, we had many tables. Activities consisted of: peanuts to shell and eat as well as glue onto an outline of the state, making butter, playing colonial games, using quill pens to write and add their name to the Declaration of Independence, make paper hats throughout history, tin punching, making paper quilt squares, and stenciling. The Music and PE teachers worked with the upper elementary students during the week teaching them how to dance the Virginia Reel. During Virginia Night, these students had the opportunity to show off their dancing skills and teach their parents the dance. In addition to the teacher run activities a few guests of history visited. There were re-enactors from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, a Fife and Drum Trio performed, and Martha Washington taught the proper way of drinking tea.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Parenting
Learning at Home

<i>Title of Program:</i> ESL Parent Coffees	
<i>School:</i> Woodlawn Elementary	<i>School Phone Number:</i> 703.619.4800
<i>Contact:</i> Josephine McCormick; Antonina Bean	<i>Email Address:</i>
<i>Targeted Grade Levels:</i> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<p>Three times a year the ESL Department and the Parent Liaisons organize Parent Coffees for students in the ESL Program. This is a time to meet other parents and create rapport between the school and home over refreshments. It is also a great opportunity to let parents know informally how the students are progressing and how the school can best assist home with student success in school.</p> <p>Woodlawn Elementary School is committed to learning more about the families that compose the diverse groups within the school.</p>	



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Parenting
Learning at Home

<u>Title of Program:</u> Family Learning Night	
<u>School:</u> Baileys' Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.575.6832
<u>Contact:</u> Bonnie Dennis, Title I Reading Teacher	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<p>Several committees, including the Language Arts Committee, Math Committee, Social Studies Committee, and Technology Committee, organized and sponsored the Family Learning Night this fall. We wanted to have an event that included many areas of the curriculum and provided parents with ideas for activities they could do with their children at home.</p> <p>To advertise the evening a flyer including pictures drawn by the children was sent home. Some classrooms made posters to advertise the event. The children hung the posters in the school so that parents attending the November conferences and parents bringing or picking up children would see them.</p> <p>Families with children at all grade levels were invited. Teachers volunteered to run a session based on their own interests and expertise.</p> <p>This year we coordinated the event with the Book Fair and held Family Learning Night the same night that the Book Fair held evening hours. The Book Fair was open from 6:00-8:30. The Family Activities ran from 6:30-8:00 with two 45 minute sessions. Parents and children selected one or two sessions based on the Family Activities List they were given. Sessions included story retelling with puppets, drama, poetry, math riddles, readers' theater, science lab exploration, poetic portraits, computer instruction, math games, and others. Parents attended with their children.</p>	



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Multiple Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Parenting
Learning at Home

Title of Program: Family Math and Literacy Night

School: Garfield Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.923.2900

Contact: Audra O'Neal

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Teachers of all grade levels prepare either a Math or Language Arts related activity to present during two thirty minute sessions on a selected Thursday night during the school year. Sessions may include, but are not limited to reading a book, and then making a craft or food, estimating how many popcorn will pop, making animals with shapes, building bridges, playing math games on laptops, etc.

Families come together to participate together. Parents seem to enjoy themselves and often they see how literacy and math learning can be fun.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Parenting
Learning at Home

Title of Program: Grade Level Family Learning Nights

School: Dogwood Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.262.3100

Contact: Teri Beitel

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

At Dogwood, every grade level team K-6 hosts quarterly Family Learning Nights to demonstrate the power of parents, teachers and children working together with common instructional goals.

By grade level, families attend a potluck dinner, pizza night, or dessert dining, depending on the time of year. Students bring their parents, younger and older siblings, and even grandparents. Each family brings something to share, and the richness of the ethnic foods makes it a special learning experience for everyone.

Each designated Learning Night focuses on a specific subject important to a particular grade level and consistent with the objectives for that grade level curriculum. There is a combination of games, activities, computer web sites, and more for families to engage in.

The evening begins with a welcome message and an introduction from the entire grade level team. Following this introduction, the guests are invited to join the families of their children's classmates for dinner. When everyone has eaten, a brief overview of the focused topic is presented to parents and students. After the activities are identified and explained, parents are encouraged to work with their children. Extra copies of the teacher-made games, print-outs of the web sites, and calendars of important upcoming events are distributed to all guests throughout the evening.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Multiple Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

<u>Title of Program:</u> Math and Science Family Night	
<u>School:</u> Lynbrook Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.866.2940
<u>Contact:</u> Larry Cook, Title I Math Resource Teacher	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<p>Math and Science Family Night is held in March and is for Pre K to 6 families. Our theme of “Parents as Learning Partners” is central to our focus of working with our families and community. We want to include everyone in a student’s learning environment. During Math and Science Family Night, each parent and child is given a “passport” to collect a stamp from a teacher showing that they (parent and child) have participated in a math and/or science activity. The goal is for the parent/child learning team to visit as many activities as they can during the evening, thus trying to fill their learning passport with stamps. Activities ranged from interactive Smartboard math activities, building a visual of the water cycle, and Simple Machines bingo, to dissecting owl pellets, laptop computer math activities and working with Keva planks as part of a art-math integrated activity.</p> <p>From 5:30 to 6:30 parents and children were busily moving from one classroom to the next, working together on the activities that they chose from their learning passport. Everyone was encouraged to visit their grade level, but also to explore the next higher grade level so both student and parent could get a glimpse of what they would be learning next year in math and science. Prior to leaving a classroom, students were provided with a math or science home activity that classroom and resource teachers had put together earlier in the week. Additionally, for the first 100 families, the school provided a copy of the math activity booklet <i>Helping Your Child Learn Math</i> (U.S. DOE publication).</p> <p>At 6:30, parents, children and staff joined together in the cafeteria to celebrate the evening and to enjoy hot pizza, ice cream and bottled water. The conversation about learning and the sense of community was evident and made everything worthwhile and also assured the staff that Lynbrook will continue to have several Family Learning Nights each year.</p>	



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Multiple Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Two-Way Communication
Learning at Home

<i>Title of Program:</i> Math, Science and Technology Night	
<i>School:</i> Glen Forest Elementary	<i>School Phone Number:</i> 703.578.8000
<i>Contact:</i> Kim Miller and Kate Anderson	<i>Email Address:</i>
Targeted Grade Levels: All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<p>Math, Science and Technology Night” is a school-wide evening event open to all Glen Forest families. Classroom, Resource and Specialist teachers collaborate to provide students and their families with a fun, educational evening of activities and games focusing on the use of math, science and technology both in school and at home. For instance, students can show their parents resources available to them on FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) or how to play Challenge 24 online. Games which reinforce math and science concepts are played at tables or online (Let’s Learn about Science: Astronomy or “Make your own patterns”). Parents have an opportunity to speak with their child’s teacher or with Math and Technology specialists about how they can support their child’s learning in these content areas. This night is a wonderful opportunity to let parents know what and how their child is learning while we build the Glen Forest community.</p>	



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

Title of Program: Monthly Family Gatherings

School: Crestwood Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.923.5400

Contact: Donna Lash

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Crestwood has Family Gatherings for the families at each grade level throughout the school year. Curriculum is explained and explored in a fun and interactive way.

- Grade level teams select a Thursday during the year for their Family Gathering.
- Teachers plan interactive activities for students and parents for the evening.
- Flyers are sent home in the Weekly Take Home Folders to announce the activity.
- Some activities are sent home with students to use at home.

Kindergarten:

Literacy Night- Reading to and with your child

Four stations were set up in English and Spanish to teach parents how to read to and with their children. Students took home the book A Pocket Full of Kisses.

First Grade:

They had literacy stations set up in the cafeteria. The stations were: word study, helping your child read at home, reading with your child, and story sharing.

Second Grade:

Rotating math stations were set up for second graders. They estimated various edible treats and the closest to the actual estimate won the container of treats. This was announced and presented at the end of the evening. Students measured using rulers, practiced their math facts by playing games, worked on making paper plate clocks and telling time, and used the computer to practice math facts.

Third Grade:

SOL review was the focus for the third grade Family Gathering. The stations were:

SOL testing taking tips, SOL websites, SOL vocabulary, and SOL practice games. Students and parents played games and used websites to learn more about the third grade SOLs.

Fourth Grade:

Rotating stations were set up for students and parents in mathematics, reading, and social studies. The mathematics stations included Every Day Counts Partner Games, the Gallon Game, and the Magic Triangle activity. For Virginia social studies, there were SOL practice games that students had played in the classroom. Students practiced word and picture sorts for spelling.

Fifth Grade:

Students rotated to all of the classrooms for a variety of math activities: National Library of Virtual Manipulative, Fractions with Pattern Blocks, Geometer's Sketchpad on the laptops, and "The Eliminator" game for number theory, multiplication, and division.

Sixth Grade:

Scavenger Hunt relating to math, social studies, and language arts. Display science boards, tri-folds of their language arts/ history projects. Families searched for Scavenger Hunt answers when viewing student projects.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Two-Way Communication
Decision Making

Title of Program: Muffins for Moms and Doughnuts for Dads

School: Hybla Valley Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.718.7000

Contact: Mevelyn Watkins, Guidance Counselor

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Muffins for Moms and Doughnuts for Dads are two events that Hybla Valley’s Guidance Counselor hosts numerous times throughout the year. The purpose of these gatherings is centered around involving the entire family in the child’s education. It informs the parent about the schools academic progress, academic programs (i.e. Title I programs, PTA, etc.) upcoming events, conduct surveys and solicit suggestions. There are open discussions, socialization as well as guest speakers. The students are involved in the event by sharing poems, stories or singing songs. The meetings are held every couple months and are open to all. Parents with preschoolers are welcome as well as grandparents.

2004-2005 programs:

September: Grandparents Day-grandparents came to school and enjoyed refreshments in the cafeteria and then proceeded to the library where they read or share stories with the students.

December: Mr. Louis Nuzzo from Northern Virginia Mediation Service spoke to fathers at the Doughnuts for Dads meeting. Mr. Nuzzo addressed the topic of “Family Involvement Strategies for Busy Parents”.

February: Ms. Watkins and the African American Support Group of Hybla Valley Elementary devoted the month of February to Black History Month. They held a breakfast and invited guest speaker Ms. Tilly Blanding from the Fairfax County Dept. of Social Work and Human Services to speak about African American family history and the history of the African American child in the educational system. She also touched upon ways parents can empower children in school and at home to be successful in all they do.

May: End of Year Breakfast inviting moms, dads, and grandparents to share end of year experiences.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Social Studies/History
Technology

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

<u>Title of Program:</u> SOL Fair	
<u>School:</u> Annandale Terrace Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.658.5600
<u>Contact:</u> Debbie Swietlik, Former Family Involvement Resource Teacher	<u>Email Address:</u>

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

The evening program began with a ½ hour presentation in the cafeteria describing what the SOL test are. Information included:

- specific tests taken at each grade level, up through grade 12, and the importance of passing the tests in high school in order to graduate and receive a diploma
- testing schedule/dates
- released items for parents to see samples
- a student score report and how to read it
- how test scores are used (accreditation, AYP, instruction, etc.)
- how parents can help support their student
- what the school is doing to help all students pass the tests

Following this presentation, parents and students went to the gym where stations had been set up: Science, Math, Language Arts, Social studies/Virginia History. In grade level groups, parents rotated through the stations in 15 minute intervals, first listening to short presentations given by teachers, then receiving materials and ideas for helping their children prepare for the SOL tests at home. Materials given out included flashcards for studying Soc. St. historical figures, science vocabulary, math games, etc.

At the language arts station, parents were instructed to support sustained silent reading at home on a regular basis. Information was given that connects reading at home to standardized test scores.

Parents left with a new understanding of the comprehensiveness and importance of the tests and with materials to use at home to support their children as they prepare to take the SOL tests. We called the tests "Virginia State SOL Tests" because many parents from other countries have background knowledge of state issued exams and could relate to this reference.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

<u>Title of Program:</u> Strategies Lab Family Fun Night	
<u>School:</u> Crestwood Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.923.5400
<u>Contact:</u> DonnaLynn Cooper, Gifted and Talented Specialist	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Strategies Lab Family Fun Night was an interactive evening that introduced parents to Crestwood’s Strategy Lab. Students in grades K-6, along with their families, were invited to this event. The lab contains process-oriented activities fostering creativity and divergent thinking through problem-solving.

When families arrived, they were asked to sign in on an index card and were encouraged to participate in five activities. After each activity, they were given a sticker. If they collected five stickers, they placed these into a box and were eligible for a drawing at the end of the evening. Five prizes were awarded; Math Dice, Pack It In, Double Square, The Missing T, and Fifteen.

Direction cards for the activities were placed on the tables next to the games. Teachers, some of whom were helped out by their own family members, passed out stickers and assisted with the activities. A few computers were set up to share possible math activities students could use at home. The Library of Congress website was one of the websites featured.

Parents and students become active problem-solvers by participating in a wide variety of learning experiences that encouraged a variety of thinking behaviors. These included flexibility, fluency, originality, and persistence.

- Students became aware of their thinking
- Visual/spatial strength was apparent
- Listening and cooperation were evident
- Creativity and ingenuity could be seen in student solutions to problems
- Manipulatives were used as a main component to the activities in the lab – these activities included Rush Hour, Tip-Over, Pipeline, Blokus, Square by Square, Gears, Gobblet, and many more.

Strategies Lab materials used that evening were friendly to all students. The focus was the process of working through a problem by manipulating cards, blocks, shapes, or patterns materials that could be seen and touched. The process allowed teachers, parents, and even other students to see the results of the thinking process.

It wasn't always necessary to use words or equations to explain an answer in the Strategies Lab activities; a student could move a car through a series of twists and turns to show his thinking. Groups of students could work together to build a ceiling-high structure with delicate placement of each block, demonstrating an understanding of basic laws of balance.

The Strategies Lab Family Fun Night allowed students to develop practical problem-solving strategies that can be used in the lab, in the classroom, or in the world. These included:

- Make a plan
- Look forward/Look backward
- Guess and check
- See the whole picture
- Try, try again
- Take a different point of view

Students were encouraged to accept responsibility for their learning by finding solutions to the questions posed by each activity. Motivation was high and frustration was often turned to success! Teachers, parents, and other students could see the results of thinking processes.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Multiple Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Learning at Home

<i>Title of Program:</i> Take-Home Math Storybook Kits	
<i>School:</i> Timber Lane Elementary	<i>School Phone Number:</i> 703.206.5300
<i>Contact:</i> Tamie Dickson, Title I Math Teacher	<i>Email Address:</i>
<i>Targeted Grade Levels:</i> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<p>Second grade classes wanted a project in which children and their parents could work together to better understand math concepts and to enjoy doing math together. We decided to set up “kits” for the children to take home. Each kit contains a math storybook, the materials and manipulatives needed to do the math activities described in the back of each book, and a response sheet. There are 25 storybooks in each classroom set; 11 are Hello Math Readers (Scholastic Books) and 14 are MathStart Books (by Stuart J. Murphy).</p> <p>Students take a kit home every other week to enjoy with their families. They read and discuss the book together, choose one or more activities to do, write responses about the experience or ideas they had, and then return the kit within a week. They have the next week “off” and then are able to check out a new kit the following week. The week “off” allows the teacher to get all the kits checked in, and it helps keep student interest high.</p> <p>Parents and children have enjoyed the relaxed, hands-on nature of the project. Teachers often hear conversations of children comparing the kits they have checked out. These are all good things!</p>	



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Multiple Types of Family Involvement

<u>Title of Program:</u> Computer classes for parents	
<u>School:</u> Bailey's Elementary for the Arts & Sciences	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.575.6800
<u>Contact:</u> Miriam Stein, Former Assistant Principal	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Description of Family Involvement Program:	
<p>We held two sessions of four beginning computer classes each, one before and one after Spring break. Participants were all parents of students at Bailey's. The goal was to introduce parents to computer literacy so that they would be able to access the FCPS website, "24/7", and "Keep in Touch". Classes were conducted in English and in Spanish by a bilingual parent volunteer who is a computer analyst. They were assisted by the technology teacher at Bailey's and members of the Bailey's Community Outreach Committee who helped parents individually during the course of the instruction. The classes took place in the computer lab and lasted one hour each.</p> <p>Parents started by gradually getting used to manipulating the mouse and the computer keyboard. To achieve this, parents were introduced to Kid Pix at the beginning, then progressed to learning some word processing, and finally, to using the internet services. Parents were also given an e-mail account.</p> <p>We provided childcare by hiring two parents who already work at the school as cafeteria hostesses. Children could also participate in some of the many after-school activities offered at Bailey's.</p> <p>The program, childcare, and after-school activities were all free of cost. The Bailey's PTA provided the money to pay the childcare providers.</p> <p>Advertising was done via flyers in English and Spanish that were posted throughout the school and were also handed personally to parents by the members of the Bailey's Community Outreach Committee at arrival and dismissal times.</p>	



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Parenting
Learning at Home

Title of Program: English Classes for Parents

School: Woodlawn Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.619.4800

Contact: Sonia Wagner, Parent Liaison

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Three times during the year Woodlawn Elementary School, in coordination with the Northern Virginia Literacy Council, offers classes for adults who are speakers of other languages that want to learn English. The program is taught by licensed teachers and includes a literacy program for the children of those attending the classes. It runs for two days, four hours a week with a total of 15-19 classes each semester. All the materials needed are provided by the Virginia Literacy Council and Woodlawn Elementary School. The program also provides speakers in various fields with translation provided by the Parent Liaison of Woodlawn Elementary School.

Woodlawn Elementary School is committed to assisting parents in learning English so that they may be able to help their children succeed in school.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Multiple Types of Family Involvement

<u>Title of Program:</u> Parent Coffee Meetings	
<u>School:</u> Annandale Terrace Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.658.5600
<u>Contact:</u> Debbie Swietlik, Former Family Involvement Resource Teacher	<u>Email Address:</u>
<u>Targeted Grade Levels:</u> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary (prek-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper (3 rd through 6 th) <input type="checkbox"/>	

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Friday mornings between 8:30 and 9:30a.m., Annandale Terrace’s Parent Center organizes Parent Coffees. This is a time to meet other parents and create a strong liaison between the school and the parents over a cup of coffee in the school’s Parent Center. Parents suggest topics of interest for upcoming programs.

Some of the topics for the Parent Coffees for the 2004 –2005 school year calendar have included the following:

- Getting Organized for the School Year
- Meeting the Principal
- Teaching parents how to use geoboards to teach their children concepts in geometry.
- Teaching Estimation and Rounding (Math) for families to use with their children
- Information about Title I Schools and about the Title I program at ATEs
- Helping Children Learn Social Studies
- Supporting Language and Reading
- Holding Effective Parent/Teacher Conferences

In addition to the above topics, Annandale Terrace is committed to learning more about the diversity that brings such richness to the school so some of the Parent Coffees feature presentations from different countries represented at the school. Some past presentations have been:

- Getting to Know Korea
- Getting to Know Peru and El Salvador
- Getting to Know Vietnam

Information is available in different languages and translators are available for the meetings for Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

All Academic Areas

Family Involvement Focus:

Parenting

Title of Program: Braddock's Boutique

<u>School:</u> Braddock Elementary	<u>School Phone Number:</u> 703.914.7300
---	---

<u>Contact:</u> Patty Shawish & Kim Witeck	<u>Email Address:</u>
---	------------------------------

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Braddock Elementary is excited about our newest outreach to the community: Braddock's Boutique, a clothing boutique located right inside our school. It is open only to families of Braddock students and employees and is run by the Helping Hands Committee, (Manos que Ayuden in Spanish), a committee comprised of school staff and parents of the school. The boutique operates much like a store. There are rules and regulations that govern how families can participate, and they were developed and are enforced by the parent-comprised management team, all members of which are parents with limited or no English and who have not previously held jobs in the workforce. All clothing and household items in Braddock's Boutique are donated by families, school employees and community members.

The primary goal of the boutique is to provide our neediest families with appropriate clothing. Many of our students come to school underdressed for the weather, lacking a winter coat or warm clothes. In the warmer months, many of our families struggle to provide weather-appropriate "extras," such as swimsuits or light jackets. Visiting the boutique allows them to access these clothing items at almost no cost. Families may purchase a year-long membership pass for \$5, which allows them to visit the boutique every week and take as many items as will fit in a shopping bag. If they would rather not purchase the membership, they may pay \$2 per visit to shop at the boutique each week. Either way, needy families are getting much-needed clothes at almost no cost.

A less-publicized goal of the boutique is that it serves as an intermediary in getting parents into the school, in the hope that they will feel more comfortable being a part of our school community. Sometimes getting parents through the front door is the first step to allaying any fears and cultural misunderstandings they may have about school from their own personal experiences in their own countries. Research shows that family involvement in a child's education translates directly into student learning. The immediate goal of the boutique is to get families in the building by taking advantage of the boutique's offerings so eventually they may be more likely to participate in teacher-parent conferences, join the PTA, or return at other times to support their child's classroom or a specific educational program. The underlying belief of the boutique recognizes and celebrates the importance and contribution of the student's family as a key component in the academic success of our students at Braddock.

(Additional space, if needed...)

A Braddock staff member who works with English Language Learners (ELLs) serves as the boutique's advisor and works closely with the school's parent liaisons to recruit, train and work with parents. There are several volunteers who spend countless hours each week organizing the donations, and additional time each Friday operating the boutique during shopping hours. The Helping Hands Committee has coordinated with more affluent schools, close in proximity to Braddock, to serve as the donor base for donated clothing and household goods. The committee emphasized to PTA officials at these two schools of the immediate need at our school, with over 60% of our students receiving free or reduced lunch, and the fact that both of these student populations from very different socio-economic backgrounds will eventually attend middle and high school together. These two schools, along with Braddock employees, serve as the primary donor base for the boutique.



FAMILY INVOLVEMENT: CITIZENSHIP/COMMUNITY BUILDING



Fairfax County Public Schools
Title I Office





Fairfax County Public Schools: Title I Family Involvement Ideas Notebook



Student Achievement Focus:

Citizenship/Community

Family Involvement Focus:

Parenting
Collaboration with Community

Title of Program: Family Bingo Night

School: Glen Forest Elementary

School Phone Number: 703.578.8000

Contact: Lori Kuzniewski and Roberta Garner

Email Address:

Targeted Grade Levels: All Primary (prek-2) Upper (3rd through 6th)

Description of Family Involvement Program:

Bicycles! FUN! Pizza! FUN! King's Dominion! FUN! Pop Corn! FUN!

These eight words describe Bingo Night at Glen Forest Elementary School. This is the BIG and very EXCITING family fun event at our school. It is held every spring and it is an outreach to our Glen Forest school community. All who attend have an awesome time. We sell pizza and soda, as well as popcorn, freshly made from our popcorn machine.

We have hundreds of Bingo prizes, including educational games to support learning at home. And there are raffle drawings for those special prizes, such as bikes and a family pass to King's Dominion. When it is time to say good-night and collect the Bingo cards, everyone receives a chocolate kiss as our way of saying, "Thanks for coming!"

Staff and PTA Members pop popcorn, serve pizza donated by local pizzerias, and help families participate in the Bingo games. During the event, upcoming school family events are announced.

This a great way for families to network while having a fun time!

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IDEAS NOTEBOOK

The Fairfax County Public Schools Title I Office
Fairfax Ridge
3877 Fairfax Ridge Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22030
571-423-4702

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity.



Fairfax County Public Schools
Title I Office

