



Ready to Read Grant NEWS

February 2009

Ready to Read Calendar

FEBRUARY -APRIL 2009

Continue to hold parent classes
Send in your workshop stats

FEBRUARY 2009

Feb. 24, 1-3 p.m. - Elgin Public Library
Half-Way How Are You Meeting

MARCH 2009

Mar. 4, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Leander Public Library
Half-Way How Are You Meeting

Mar. 4, 1-3 p.m. - Buda

Public Library
Half-Way How Are You Meeting

MAY 2009

Rest up for Summer Reading Club!

Ready to Read is a public library/Head Start partnership. The goal is to improve early literacy and increase library use among low-income families.

www.CTLS.net



Three Most Important Things



1. Come to the *Half-Way How Are You* meetings
2. Send in your stats & sign up sheets.
3. Parents and teachers really like your presentations!

YOUR WORKSHOPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- 95% of teachers say the public library is a valuable early literacy partner.
- 93% of the parents plan to visit the public library after the workshop
- 90% of teachers say you give easy-to-use literacy ideas, confirm their own early literacy messages and that they would recommend this program to other teachers.
- 85% of teachers indicate that you are well-prepared, friendly and flexible.
- 83% of parents say that after your classes, books sharing was more enjoyable
- 82% of parents without library cards plan to get one because of the workshop
- 72% of parents say the free books made a difference in how often they read to their child.

Reminders from Parent/Teacher Surveys

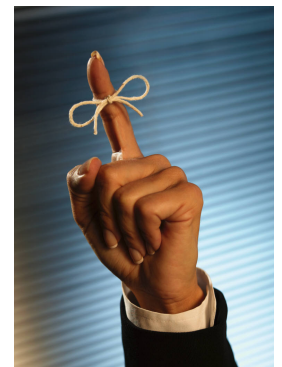
Hand out library card applications at every workshop - Make sure to record these numbers on your yellow sign-in sheets

Remind teachers to mail in the parent follow-up evaluations (bright yellow)

Use the NEW blue Parent evaluation forms - Data from the old ones are not telling us what we need. Use the new ones starting at your next session. Look for them in the mail.

Talk about library services - Bring info on your library & talk about library services.

Know your audience - Ask your head start partners about their families. What needs do the families have that the library can address? Are there any barriers to families using the library? How can the library help teachers?





Half-Way How Are You Meetings

We're half way through the grant year! Share your experiences thus far, ask questions, pick up tips and ideas from neighboring **Ready to Read** libraries. Plus I'll hand out more board books to give out at your parent classes!

Who should attend: These meetings are for public library staff involved in presenting or scheduling the Ready to Read classes. Libraries may extend the invitation to community partners. We ask that a representative from each library attend one of the meetings.



Meeting locations: February 24 - Elgin Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m.; March 4 - Leander Public Library from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; March 4 - Buda Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m. Participants will receive two hours CE credit. Refreshments provided.

Register at: Suzan.Nyfeler@ctls.net.

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LIBRARY PARTNERS

Bartlett/Teinert Memorial Library
Bastrop Public Library
Buda Public Library
Burnet County Library
Cedar Park Public Library
Elgin Public Library
Florence Public Library
Georgetown Public Library
Leander Public Library
Liberty Hill Public Library
Marble Falls Public Library
Oakalla Public Library
Round Rock Public Library
San Marcos Public Library
Smithville Public Library
Taylor Public Library

HEAD START PARTNERS

Gen-Tex Family Services, Inc.
Community Action, Inc.
Williamson-Burnet County
Opportunities, Inc.

PROJECT FUNDERS

Texas State Library & Archives
Commission
Institute of Museum & Library
Services
Tocker Foundation

Ready to Read - Outreach Ideas

Here are some great outreach ideas from Ready to Read libraries:

1. **High school parenting** or Family & Career Management classes
2. **Elementary schools** with pre-K programs
3. City or county **literacy organizations**
4. **Churches** will often let you teach a class to their members, especially to parents of small children
5. **Child care centers** - Many hold parent education nights
6. Offer the class as free continuing education **to preschool teachers or child care providers**. They are a target audience.
7. **Parent Nights** organized by the PTA.
8. Parenting classes at **clinics or hospitals**
9. Add outreach classes to your **library's calendar**
10. Hold **classes in the school library** in the summer. Advertise them during spring Kindergarten registration at your schools.
11. Take the classes to **incarcerated mothers**. Offer to mail the free books to the mother's children since the mothers may not be able to receive books.
12. **Community college** child development classes

*Finally, take the **long-term** approach. The program ends in August so we're only half way through. Take time now to plant some seeds. No matter where you offer the classes, add them to your library's calendar to show your partnership with community agencies.*

Thanks for your participation in this worthwhile project!