



Book Reviews and Book Clubs

Adapted from “*Planning for Parent Engagement: A Guidebook for Parents and Schools*” developed by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Parents can read from a list of family centred books and resources and try using one of the ideas they find through their reading. Parents then have the opportunity share their experiences with trying these new ideas.

Recommended Materials:

You may wish to prepare your own list of parenting books or magazines to read, or you can check out the [S4 Book List for Parents and Families](#) for a list of suggestions that has been put together by S4.

Set-up:

- ✓ Share a list of recommended parenting books or magazines with other parents by publishing it in the school newsletter or having it sent home with students.
- ✓ Invite parents to share their experiences with these books by submitting them to be printed in the newsletter. Parents can write a review of one of the books or share their recommendations and experiences based on what they read.
- ✓ When inviting parents to submit their ideas, you may wish to provide them with some suggestions for what to include in a book review, which can be found on the following page.
- ✓ Share these reviews monthly in a specific section of the school’s newsletter.

Some questions to consider when writing a book report:

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- What is the title of the book? Who is the author?
- What is the book about?
- How did you use the information in the book?
- Why would you recommend the book?
- Where can parents find the book?

“Although the information shared in this activity is important, equally important is the invitation to share advice and experiences. Parents feel valued and welcomed when they are included in preparing content for the newsletter.”

~ Council of Ontario Directors of Education in *Planning for Parent Engagement: A Guidebook for Parents and Schools*



More Ideas:

If you find that this activity gathers a lot of interest, you may wish to assemble interested parents to create a book club or coffee morning to visit and share book reviews and advice with each other in person.

Another idea you might try is to create a parent lending library at the school. You can fill the library with books from your recommended book list so parents know where they will be able to find them. You can also provide other kinds of material such as information packages about the school for parents of new students.