



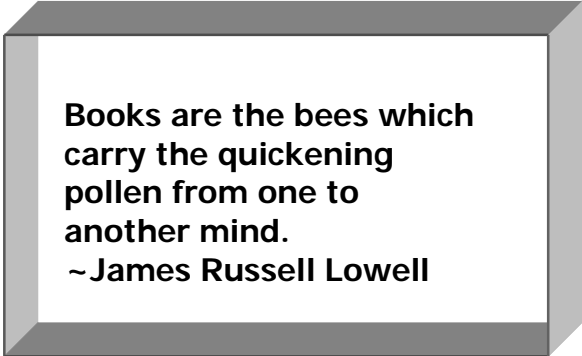
Setting up a Family Resource Library

In an effort to encourage all parents to be life-long learners and even further support student and family learning, schools with the support of parent groups, can organize a parent resource library.

In a section of the school library, build resources on a wide array of topics to build resilience and capacity in children, their families and communities. You might choose to include topics like:

*(**Recommended book lists for children, parents, and families available on [S4 website](#)**)*

- ✓ Promoting positive child development
- ✓ Building healthy relationships
 - Peer pressure
 - Bullying/Cyber-bullying/Internet Safety
 - Peaceful conflict resolution
- ✓ Appreciating strengths and diversity of groups, celebrating cultures
- ✓ Community engagement
- ✓ Calming strategies, dealing with stress, healthy choices
- ✓ Family Activities
- ✓ Celebrating strengths
- ✓ Any others you see as a fit!



**Books are the bees which
carry the quickening
pollen from one to
another mind.
~ James Russell Lowell**

Some Suggestions for Library Set-Up

Create a "Parent Resources Initial Information" form to set up an account for parents at the school library to keep track of parents signing out materials.

Materials can then be checked out by parents during the school day, or requests can be made via email for them to be sent home with students using a "Parent Resource Library Check-Out Request" form. Paper copies of these forms could also be available at the front of the school.

Develop a system to keep track of signed out resources with families that coordinates with the system in place at the school for children that works for you.

Funding the Parent Resource Library:

Develop a plan to sustain the resources in your parent library. Some ideas:

- ✓ Set up a donation fund through fundraisers and from local businesses and community agencies.
- ✓ Donations from businesses and community members can assist in collecting books, technology equipment, and other supplies.



- ✓ Volunteer time from family and community members could support the staffing and maintenance of the library. Coordinate with school staff to arrange that process.
- ✓ Welcome additional resources. If parents have materials at home that they would like to donate to the library, set up a donation area.

Activities and Updates to your Parent Resource Library

Keep families in the know of what is offered at the resource library. Offer activities and make family learning fun!

- ✓ Consider offering a parent book study to highlight a certain topic or author. Have parents meet up monthly to talk about a featured book.
- ✓ Provide updates about new resources added to the resources library by providing updates in the school newsletter, website; use social media or blog about it
- ✓ Organize book drives where families donate used books to share with others
- ✓ Offer reading programs connected to your resource library, find out what's going on at your community public library and connect in with their activities.

Creating a resource library for parents creates another opportunity for families to feel welcome, more connected, and become further involved at the school which enhances student learning, a winning situation for all.