

Adapted from "The Community Planning Handbook" by Nick Wates

Things to do Ahead of Time:

- ✓ Get permission from the school to set up your display on an outside wall of the building. Try to use a wall where many parents will walk by when they pick up or drop off their children.
- ✓ Choose a theme that you would like to focus on. This can be anything that might be important to you and your community. Some ideas are: leadership, healthy choices, communication, inclusion, or friendship.
- ✓ You may choose to advertise this activity in advance but it is not necessary.

Recommended Location: Outside of the school building

Recommended Time: Set up the display early in the morning or the night before; keep the display up for at least two days

Recommended Materials:

- ✓ Several pieces of poster paper or one large section of art paper roll
- ✓ Post-it notes (optional)
- ✓ Colourful markers
- ✓ Heavy tape

Set-Up:

- ✓ Develop some thoughtful questions about your topic that will engage other parents to provide responses.
- ✓ Post these questions, and your poster paper on the side of an outside wall of the school.
- ✓ You may provide Post-it notes for parents to post answers on or you may have them write their answers directly on to the paper.
- ✓ Make sure you have pens and markers available for parents to use to write.
- ✓ You may wish to have volunteers stand by the poster during school pick-up and drop-off times to invite parents to contribute their thoughts and answer questions.
- ✓ Leave the display up for a few days so parents can read each other's thoughts.

Additional Ideas:

You could use this activity as a "teaser" to one of the other events listed in the Engagement Manual by focusing on similar topics. This could be a way to get people talking and thinking about an issue and to generate interest before sending out official invitations to an event.

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