

## Family Reading Night – The ABC’s of Reading

**A**

**Art and Books** – Students create family reading night posters or a book jacket depicting their favorite book. Display the reading related art projects in the hallways and the school library.

**B**

**Books to Share** – Ask students to bring a favorite book home or check one out from the library to share with a friend during reading time.

**Book Bingo** – Use book titles instead of the normal letters and numbers.

**C**

**Curl Up With A Good Book** – Provide students with the opportunity to bring a favorite stuffed toy from home to read with during reading time.

**Contests!** Read for Recess; Book Trivia; Bookmark making contests

**Distribute FRN materials** – Hand out Family Reading Night bookmarks.

**D**

**Draw Pictures** - Encourage students to draw a picture about the book you read aloud.

**E**

**Enjoy Reading** – Encourage students and their families to make reading a family affair!

**Exchange Books** - Invite students to trade their gently used books.

**F**

**Football and Reading!** Invite local high school sports team members, cheerleaders, and the coach to the school library to read aloud to the elementary students. Does a sporting event conflict with FRN? Have the cheerleaders create a R-E-A-D cheer.

**G**

**Guest Readers** – Invite Senior Citizens or celebrity readers to read aloud to the children. Celebrities could include the mayor, fireman, policewoman, etc.

**Group** students together to read the same book, and host “battle of the books”.

**H**

**Help someone younger** – Invite upper grades to read to younger grades or take turns reading aloud with younger children.

**I**

Invite other librarians to participate! Collaborate and coordinate activities between the public library and school that compliment each other rather compete.

**Involve PTA!** Present a PTA program on how to read aloud and the benefits of reading.

**J**

**Journaling** – Writing encourages reading.

**K**

**Kick Off Events**– Family Reading Night is always the third Thursday in November during Children’s Book Week. Feature a week of reading activities to building up to Family Reading Night

**L**

**Look up Authors!** Use the library’s resources to look up address for authors. Have the students write letters to their favorite author or illustrator.

**M**

**Listen** – Storytellers, famous or not-so-famous celebrities can be invite to read aloud.

**N**

**Make a display** showing families reading. Collect photos of students and their families reading. Display them in a prominent place.

**Newspaper Scavenger Hunt** – Create a reading quiz using area newspapers. Look for reading related stories in the area newspapers.

- O**pen Microphone – Poetry Slams or poetry readings are popular with teens and young adults.
- O**pen House – Invite the community to come to the library and read with their children.
- P**ajama Party! Sponsor a story time featuring bedtime stories. Invite families to wear their pajamas, robes, and slippers; bring a pillow and blanket; curl up and listen to bedtime stories.
- P**izza Party – As a reward for students reading on Family Reading Night
- Q**uiet Time – Provide quiet time for everyone to read silently.
- R**affles and Drawings – prizes should be reading related such as books.
- R**efreshments!
- R**ead In Assembly! Feature the drama class, cooks, custodians, and teachers reading.
- S**end home tip sheets for parents about the benefits of reading aloud to children.
- S**top and Read! Set aside a special time on November 18 and have everyone stop and read. Involve everyone in the building.
- S**tations – Set up stations with parent and child activities.
- T**asty **T**reats! Encourage parents to read a recipe with their child then cook it.
- T**ape-record your reading sessions. Let the children replay them and listen quietly with headphones.
- U**nder the stars! Sponsor a camping theme reading event. Families use blankets and folding chairs to build their tents and read stories inside by flashlight. Ask families to bring 1 or 2 large blankets, a flashlight and 2 of their child's favorite books.
- V**ideo Games – Encourage students to turn off the television and video games, and read on Family Reading Night.  
Visit [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats\\_new/frn.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/frn.html) for more Family Reading Night ideas.
- W**ord Games! Play word games in the library such as Scrabble or Boggle!
- W**ho is your favorite character? Ask student to write why they would like to meet their favorite character.
- X**amples! Provide lists of age appropriate titles for parents to read to their children.  
Get **X**cited! Motivate and excite your students to read! Reward reading!
- Y**ES! When asked if you are going to encourage students to read, say YES! Get involved in other reading programs such as Read for a Lifetime, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award, the Monarch Award: Illinois' K-3 Children's Choice Award and the Abraham Lincoln High School Book Award.
- Z** Illinois students reading **Z**illions of books!!