



The ABC's of Reading

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR FAMILY READING NIGHT EVENT

- A**rt and Books — Have students create book jackets depicting their favorite books.
- B**attle of the Books — Have students read the same book and host a “Battle of the Books” contest.
- C**ontests — Hold contests such as Read for Recess, Book Trivia, Bookmark-Making Contests and Book Bingo.
- D**raw Pictures — Ask children to draw a picture about a book you read aloud.
- E**xchange Books — Hold a book exchange where students can trade their gently-used books.
- F**ootball and Reading — Invite high school football players, cheerleaders and coaches to read to younger students. Have cheerleaders create an R-E-A-D cheer.
- G**uest Readers — Invite celebrity readers or senior citizens to read aloud to children.
- H**elp Younger Students — Encourage older students to read to younger students.
- I**nvoke Other Organizations — Invite the public library or school to collaborate on Family Reading Night activities.
- J**ournaling — Encourage families to write in journals. Writing encourages reading.
- K**ick-off Events — Feature a week of reading activities building up to Family Reading Night.
- L**ook up Authors — Look up contact information for authors at the library. Have students write letters to their favorite authors or illustrators and mail or e-mail the letters.
- M**ake a Display — Collect photos of students and families reading and display them in a prominent location.
- N**ewspaper Scavenger Hunt — Create a reading quiz using local newspapers.
- O**pen Mic Night — Sponsor a poetry slam or poetry reading for teens and young adults.
- P**ajama Party — Have families wear their pajamas, bring pillows and blankets, and read bedtime stories.
- Q**uiet Time — Provide quiet time for everyone to read silently.
- R**affles and Drawings — Offer raffles and drawings for books and other prizes.
- S**tations — Set up stations with reading-related parent and child activities.
- T**asty Treats — Have parents read a recipe to their children then cook it.
- U**nder the Stars — Host a camping-themed event. Build tents using blankets and folding chairs and read stories by flashlight under the tents.
- V**ideo Games — Encourage students to turn off the television and video games and read instead.
- W**ord Games — Play word games such as Scrabble or Boggle.
- E**xcited — Motivate and excite your students to read! Reward them with pizza parties and book-related prizes.
- Y**es — Say “Yes” to reading! Get involved in other reading programs such as Read for a Lifetime, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers’ Book Award, Monarch Children’s Choice Award and the Abraham Lincoln High School Book Award.
- Z**illions — Families across the state reading **Zillions** of books!

Jesse White • Secretary of State and State Librarian

Illinois State Library • Gwendolyn Brooks Building • 300 S. Second St. • Springfield, IL 62701

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