

Laugh it up! at your library

Tips for Involving Your Board, Staff, & Volunteers in Family Reading Week

Community support is always important for libraries. Family Reading Week provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how the library supports families and education. Here are a few ideas for encouraging board members, both public library and school boards, to participate in Family Reading Week. This can also be a great opportunity for building staff and board relations and have fun together.

BOARD MEMBERS: The most important information for board members is some background on why the library is hosting Family Reading Week events. Make sure your board knows about upcoming events through announcements at board meetings, newsletters, and face-to-face communication. Consider sending a special invitation to board members to participate in your Family Reading Night. Encourage them to come with their children or grandchildren. If you are using a planning committee, ask a board member to serve on the committee. Introduce any attending board members at the reading event(s).

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS: Make sure that staff, volunteers, and anyone else involved in the program know about your plans and are kept up-to-date with how plans are progressing. Give people the opportunity to contribute to the program's development and listen to their feedback. This way, everyone feels involved, and everyone has the opportunity to benefit from the program. Often reading events fall to the children's librarian, but Family Reading Week impacts readers of all ages, from grandparents to babies. Invite other staff members and volunteers to participate in planning, promoting, decorating, and/or producing your program. Providing special name tags they can wear during the week or having fun by dressing up can be fun ways to get more involved.



Idaho Family Reading Week November 13 - 19, 2016

Sponsored by Read to Me, a program of the Idaho Commission for Libraries. libraries.idaho.gov/readtome

