

# FACILITATORS GUIDE FOR A ONE HOUR MEETING

## TALKING IS TEACHING: TALK, READ, SING



*These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education.*

This parent/caregiver meeting is designed to illustrate how important it is to share books with young children.

Participants will:

- Learn why sharing books and reading with young children is important to brain and vocabulary development and builds a foundation for all future learning.
- Learn about and discuss how sharing a book with a child can support social emotional development and build collective family knowledge and history
- Engage in skill building activities on sharing books with children.
- Learn, through discussion, how others use books to enrich the lives of young children and the adults who care for them.
- Be able to choose books to take home and add to their family library.



### PRE MEETING DETAILS:

- Have tables/chairs arranged in a way to promote discussion. A “U” shaped configuration is ideal.
- Be prepared to show videos through link on internet.
- Have handouts ready and enough books for each participant to choose three books.

### FACILITATING THE MEETING, GETTING STARTED:

- Welcome participants as they arrive and have them sign in. Give them the handouts provided to you. (Note – sign in sheet will also be used to verify # of books distributed).
- As participants arrive, ask them to choose a book to keep (they will be able to choose two additional books before they leave). They will use the first book during the meeting.
- To begin the meeting, introduce yourself and give a one or two sentence (keep it short) description of the young child in your life. Go around the table and ask participants to do the same. This is a very important first step as it gets everyone’s voice in the room and makes involvement in discussion during the meeting more natural.
- In your own words, thank people for joining you and give a short, enthusiastic description of what the meeting will entail. Points to consider making:
  - Sharing a book is a learning experience and a bonding experience. It feeds the brain and the heart.
  - Reading with children is essential to building their word knowledge and future learning.
  - Through your example, children learn how important and enjoyable reading is.

## FACILITATING THE MEETING:

- Ask participants if they remember a favorite book from their childhood, or if their child/ren have a favorite book. If no one responds at first, talk about your favorite book and why you liked it. End discussion by pointing out how enjoyable, entertaining, informational, calming.... A favorite book can be. (Also, this is one more "safe" way to get more voices in the room).
- Introduce and show "Becoming a Reader" video <https://vimeo.com/103169733> by telling participants that first, we are going to discuss books and babies, after that we will discuss books and older children, but it all starts with babies!
- After video, invite conversation by saying something like, "This video introduces lots of new thoughts about sharing books with our youngest children. Is there anything that really struck you as interesting? Review the "Talking is Teaching! Babies Need Books! Bookmark. You may want to ask different participants to read a line or two aloud. Let participants know that they are welcome to take a few additional bookmarks to share with family and friends.
- Next, say something like, now we are going to focus on reading with preschool and school aged children. Show "Why Read to Children? Video <https://youtu.be/2PbhDmW3Sag>
- After the video, invite conversation by saying something like, "This video introduces some new thoughts about reading with children. Is there anything that struck you as interesting?" If no one responds, respond yourself and ask again. Distribute second bookmark and review the side "Six Very Important Reasons to Read to Your Child:" with the group.
- Our last short video will be "How to Read to Children" which is meant to give you tips and skills to add to what you are already doing, because there is no wrong way to read with children! Show "How to Read With Children" <https://youtu.be/OHbwUlnnbV0>. Upon conclusion of the video ask the group:
  - What do you see here that you are already doing?
  - What do you see that you can begin doing?
  - Is there a time of day that works best for you to read with your child? It doesn't always have to be bedtime.



## SKILL BUILDING ACTIVITIES

“Let’s try some of the things we just saw in the video.”:

1. How to introduce a book. Look at the cover together and simply ask, “What do you think this book is about?” (Do this with the group) No matter what the answer to the question is, you say “Let’s find out.” As you open the book. Ask participants to partner with someone and do this activity twice, once with each of their books.
2. How to end a book. Ask an open-ended question – that is a question that can’t be answered with a simple yes or no response. You can illustrate this by reading the last page of one or two books, asking the group an open-ended question and then asking them what other questions they could ask. Next have participants try this activity with someone next to them and their books. Some examples:
  - a. What do you think could happen next?
  - b. What would you do if that were you?
  - c. How does (character name) feel now?
  - d. What did you like about this books?
  - e. Others?
3. Ask open-ended questions once in a while you are reading the book. Illustrate this to the group.
4. Remind participants that you can do all of these activities by reading from the pictures if adult who is reading is not confident in their reading skills.
5. Review the “When You Read Aloud to Your Child:” side of the second bookmark. Have volunteer participants read one of the 6 points out loud for the group. Again, offer to give additional bookmarks to participant to share with friends and family.

## TO CLOSE THE MEETING:

Say something like, we have been reminded of great ways to share books with young children, and have learned some new strategies too. Is there anything new or different you will do when sharing a book with the little ones in your life after our work here today?

Thank people for coming, ask them to complete the Feedback Form, and tell them when they give it to you, they can choose two more books to take home.

