



WONDERFUL Indiana Destinations



IndianaDestinations.com

Hosting a Hoosier Family Reading Event

PURPOSE

To provide a positive educational experience for parents and families in a community setting and to send the message that educational organizations/sites are places where families can learn together.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Perhaps provide a healthy snack, such as an energy bar.
- Actively involve all participants—parents and children.
- Advertise on your Web site and social media sites through flyers or the newspaper; e-mail if you have that kind of distribution list.
- Provide an incentive or door prize.

PLANNING

- What staff members are available to help with the planning?
- What other resources would be helpful for a successful event?
- When you have hosted family events in the past, what worked? What was not so successful?
- What materials are needed?
- What do you want families to know?
- Who needs to be involved? Various department heads? Mascots? Safety experts?
- Can you teach families a new skill? Introduce them to a new book? Explain an artifact? Show them a short video?

SAMPLE AGENDA

FAMILY ARRIVAL

- A staff member should be available to greet families as they come in and escort them to the event. Also, direct parents to sign in and make them feel comfortable as they wait for the event to begin.
- If families are able to bring their own devices, provide instructions for connecting to Wi-Fi and navigating to the site or application if one will be used.

WELCOME (5 minutes)

- The workshop leader or designee greets the families and welcomes them. Messages should highlight that you plan to provide a fun educational experience for families.

ICE BREAKER (10 minutes)

- Provide an icebreaker activity that is related to the overall theme or concept of the event. This activity is designed to let families get to know you and each other.

(continued on reverse side)



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WHOLE GROUP ACTIVITY (15 minutes)

- Share the topic of the event in an interactive way. Vary the use of sharing strategies—PowerPoint, discussion, video clips, charts, handouts, small group work.
- Allow time for discussion or questions about the activity.

FAMILY SESSIONS (15 minutes)

- Families are then given an opportunity to participate in an intergenerational activity that promotes learning/reading together.
- The activity, for example, might ask families to fold paper airplanes to see which one flies the farthest; create an art project such as a collage of nature objects and identify five or more of the leaves used as well as other objects; create a matrix identifying similarities and differences between various animals; draw/design a habitat for a particular animal; display objects collected during a scavenger hunt; or draw a picture of the dunes and explain how they were created.

WHOLE GROUP SHARING (10 minutes)

- Families are given an opportunity to share what they created.
- Discuss any questions or concerns.
- Families share their plan for using the strategy/activity at home.

CLOSING (5 minutes)

- Summarize the event for families.
- Make connections to a related Wonder of the Day® from Wonderopolos.org®.
- Provide booklist or other materials for families to use at home.
- Ask parents to complete the evaluation form and ask for suggestions for topics for future sessions.
- Provide certificates for families.
- Incorporate food at this time.

DRAWING/GIVEAWAYS

- Provide at least one book as a door prize.