

FACT Sheet

Families Building Better Readers

*Parent Workshops and
Train-the-Trainer Sessions*

Introduction

The Families Building Better Readers (FBBR) program offers three dynamic reading workshops for parents and students in the elementary, middle and high school grades. Regional Train-the-Trainer sessions for educators are also provided. This training, a collaborative outreach by the Florida Department of Education and the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC), is offered to schools free of charge.

Purpose

These workshops:

- Teach parents how to set their children up for successful reading practice at home.
- Teach parents ten research-based reading activities they can do with their children to improve reading performance.
- Provide parents with resources that promote life-long literacy.
- Provide a fun learning experience for all participants.
- Promote positive partnerships between families and schools.
- Involve elementary students in rich literacy experiences, gives them practice in doing the same activities their parents are learning, and the opportunity to perform in a play that reviews workshop content for all participants.
- Teach middle school families “invisible” mental strategies that will help encourage middle school readers.
- Teach high school families valuable information about reading facts.

Workshop Themes

Families Building Better Readers Elementary

The Family Building Better Readers workshop for elementary students and their parents has a construction theme which adds an element of fun to the event. Every parent receives a “tool kit” that includes a story book and supplies for reading activities to do with their children at home. During the parents’ workshop breakout session, each activity is demonstrated by effective trainers and practiced by the parents. A parallel children’s workshop involves children in rich reading experiences. At the end of the workshop, families are reunited and parents enjoy a play performed by the children that reviews the workshop content. The workshop ends with a read-aloud demonstration.

Mysteries in the Middle

Mysteries in the Middle (MnM) is an engaging reading workshop for middle school students, parents, and teachers. It brings schools and families together to actively participate in a fun and meaningful learning experience, during which they watch and take part in the mock filming of a movie called, “Mysteries in the Middle.”

High School Quiz Show

In the High School Quiz Show workshop, students have a fun-filled time checking their knowledge about reading facts and high school success, while their family learns valuable information. The quiz show format keeps them choosing answers and cheering for their favorite team.

Call, email or go online at www.familiesandeducators.org to request FBBR materials and/or training today!

Related Materials

Translations of the elementary Families Building Better Readers workshop materials are available in Spanish and Haitian Creole. The middle school Mysteries in the Middle “Official Casebook” is available in Spanish.



If you have any questions about Families Building Better Readers (FBBR) Parent Workshops or Train-the-Trainer Sessions, please contact:

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Parent Workshops & Train-the-Trainer Sessions

The FBBR staff at PAEC schedules and coordinates Families Building Better Readers, Mysteries in the Middle, and High School Quiz Show parent workshops and Train-the-Trainer sessions across the state. Families Building Better Readers Elementary Trainer's Manual, Mysteries in the Middle Trainer Scripts, and the High School Quiz Show Manual are provided for trainers. These training manuals guide educators in successfully implementing the workshops in their local schools and communities. Instructional plans for a parallel children's workshop for the elementary program are also provided.

Parents participating in the workshops receive resource materials. Elementary school parents receive a "tool kit" and a Families Building Better Readers parent guide, "Blueprints for Success." Middle school parents receive an "Official Casebook" filled with reading strategies for middle school students. Parents of high school students take home a "Family Resource Guide." The training and all materials are provided by FBBR free of charge to parents or schools.

Please visit our website at www.familiesandeducators.org. Educators may request materials and/or a trainer for a family workshop, or register for a Train-the-Trainer session. Parents may register on the website for scheduled workshops by selecting **Workshops** on the **For Families** page. Contact us at fbbrinfo@paec.org or (850) 410-0213 if you have any questions.

All materials are copyrighted, but permission for free use is granted to schools by the Florida Department of Education. All training materials and family guides are available on our website: www.familiesandeducators.org. To access the materials or request free print copies of the materials, please sign-in to the **Members Only** area.

The value of FBBR was recognized by the 2004 State Legislature that established Section 1008.25, (7)(b), Florida Statutes, which provides that participation in FBBR is one of the options for supplemental services for third grade students who scored Level 1 on the FCAT and have no good cause exemption for promotion to fourth grade. FBBR gives parents a no-cost, convenient option beyond before and after school tutoring or securing a tutor with specialized reading training.

