

Family workshops overview

In Springboard Family workshops, families learn and apply reading tips. Each reading tip illustrates how adults can be purposeful and ask questions as they talk with their child before, during, and after reading. Also, workshops are a time for teachers and families to easily check in about goals, actions plans, and reading at home. These more formal “academic exchanges” have been shown to increase reading gains (Senechal 2008).

Because family workshops occur throughout the program, teachers can give the information and support to families which improves their children’s educational outcomes. Involving parents in reading activities and training parents to teach their child to read have both been effective in improving reading achievement (Justice & Ezell 2000; Primavera 2000; Purcell-Gates, Lenters, McTavish, & Anderson 2014; Senechal 2008).



Building off the foundation of mutual respect created by the initial Springboard family engagement activities (e.g. home visits, Ready Week, etc.), family workshops help forge a true academic partnership.

The 4 parts of the Springboard family workshop

Welcome: Each workshop has an informal and optional “ice-breaker” question for everyone to answer as families arrive. This is a great time for families to share openly and to get to know one another. Facilitators also take a moment to give an overview and set the purpose for the family workshops.

Reading tip: This includes an introduction to the objective of the specific workshop, time for the teacher to model the tip, and time to provide **guided practice**.

Practice time: This workshop looks different depending on the reading tip, but each workshop has a block of time set aside for the family to practice reading together using the reading tip. A parent might read a page and then the child might read a page. Perhaps the parent reads a book and then the child reads that book. Perhaps the child is doing all the reading and the parent is joining in with questions. Regardless, **the facilitator is always circulating** – checking in with families, providing feedback, discussing action plans, or doing a mid-workshop share to highlight a positive habit or correct a global misconception.

Reflection: In the final block of time, facilitators encourage reflection and gather feedback from families. It’s an opportunity for children and families to congratulate and encourage one another and set goals for the upcoming week. School or program announcements, RAZ-kids updates, and any additional questions can also be addressed at this time.

Family participation

Families are the most important part of the family workshop, of course! By protecting time for guided and independent practice, facilitators ensure workshops are participatory and not a passive exchange of information.

At every workshop, family members take a moment to make promises to each other. Adults set a goal for “reading together” time, promising their child an amount of time they will read with them every day. Scholars set a goal for “reading alone” time, promising to work hard to increase their reading stamina.

Use this sheet to set goals for your family. How many minutes will you read together with your child every day? How many minutes will your child read alone every day?

Reading together
Please set a personal goal for *reading with your scholar every day*. When you circle your goal for together minutes, think about it as a promise you are making to your child for the remainder of the program.

Please circle a goal for minutes of together reading.									
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	

Springboard Partner Signature of Commitment: _____

Reading alone
Talk together now as a family to make a goal for your scholar’s independent reading. This goal is like a promise that the Springboard Scholar makes with the family to work hard while reading alone.

Please circle a goal for minutes of alone reading.									
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	

Springboard Scholar Signature of Commitment: _____

In family workshop packets, there is a space (typically a blank, removeable bookmark) for families to write down the prompts and questions they learned during workshops. This way, families can refer to the bookmark as a guide as they try out these questions at home.

At the end of each workshop, families complete reflections to share feedback with the teacher, think about what they’ve learned at the workshop and anticipate how they might incorporate the tip into their reading habits at home.

Regular attendance is crucial to the success of the family workshops. Because of this, Springboard sends an automated reminder text in English and Spanish to families the afternoon prior to a workshop day, which is typically Wednesday. Site Leaders also help families “make-up” the workshops they miss. See “Make-up workshop guide and expectations” for guidance on make-up family workshops.

Family workshop curricula

The family workshop curricula helps teachers lead families through a sequential process where they learn to ask questions before, during, and after reading. Families use these questions to help their scholars figure out the words, sound like a storyteller, or understand the text they read.



We believe that high-quality family workshops begin with high-quality materials, so we've created PowerPoint presentations, facilitator notes, reading tips sheets, and a universal family participant packet to accompany each family workshop.

We also know that choosing a scope and sequence for family workshops can be daunting, especially for sites new to teacher-family partnerships. So we've created three curriculum options: all-level curricula, leveled curricula, and full library curricula.

	All-level curricula option	Leveled curricula option	Full library curricula option
Description	5 workshops for families with children at any reading level.	Families are separated into differentiated workshops available for level PR through level D6.	Sites create their own sequence of workshops from the evolving library of family workshops
Request required	None; this is the default option. If you do not request specific levels, your site will receive these workshops	Sites must request levels 2 weeks before Ready Week	Sites must choose this option 2 weeks before Ready Week to "opt-out" of the all-level curricula option.
Languages available	Multiple languages; must be requested 2 weeks before Ready Week	Multiple languages; must be requested 2 weeks before Ready Week	Limited languages available.
Physical materials included	Facilitator notes, reading tip sheets, and universal family workshop participant packets.	Facilitator notes, reading tip sheets, and universal family workshop participant packets.	None; digital only. Sites may print their own materials. Upon request, the universal family workshop participant packet is available.

Family workshop all-level curricula option

We've prepared a series of family workshops for sites that are unsure about classroom level need. With this "all-level curricula" option, sites receive all digital and physical materials including accompanying facilitator notes, reading tip sheets, and family workshop participant packets needed to teach family workshops that fit all Springboard levels (PR through D6). **If your site is unable to determine classroom levels within 3 weeks of the start of programming, this option is best for you.** You may request this series of workshops in multiple languages. Discuss this option with site-support staff during the planning and prepping stages.

All-level curricula		
	Title	Area of focus
Workshop 1	Choose a "just-right" book	Select a book
Workshop 2	Take a picture walk	Preview the text
Workshop 3	Use your finger	Figure out the words: vocabulary
Workshop 4	Ask open-ended questions	Understand the story: asking & answering questions
Workshop 5	Let's go back...	Sound like a storyteller: fluency & expression

Family workshop leveled curricula

Level PR		
	Title	Area of focus
Workshop 1	Using the family pack at home	Figure out the word: Decode
Workshop 2	Find a book you like	Select a book
Workshop 3	Take a picture walk	Understand the story: Preview the book
Workshop 4	Drill & play!	Figure out the word: Decode
Workshop 5	Retell with charades	Understand the story: Retell & summarize

Level A		
	Title	Area of focus
Workshop 1	Choose a "just-right" book	Select a book
Workshop 2	Take a picture walk	Understand the story: Preview the book

Workshop 3	Make your mouth ready	Figure out the words: Decode
Workshop 4	Use your finger	Figure out the words: Decode
Workshop 5	Ask open-ended questions	Understand the story: Ask & answer questions

Level B		
	Title	Area of focus
Workshop 1	Choose a “just-right” book	Select a book
Workshop 2	How can we avoid...?	Understand the story: Focus
Workshop 3	Watch your mouth move	Figure out the words: Decode
Workshop 4	Retell with charades	Understand the story: Retell & summarize
Workshop 5	Say it fast or slow down	Sound like a storyteller: Read with fluency & expression

Level C		
	Title	Area of focus
Workshop 1	Choose a “just-right” book	Select a book
Workshop 2	Take the word apart	Figure out the words: Decode
Workshop 3	Does it sound/look right? Does it make sense?	Figure out the words: Decode
Workshop 4	What did I learn? (Nonfiction)	Understand the story: Identify main idea and details
Workshop 5	Pay attention to punctuation	Sound like a storyteller: Read with fluency & expression

Level D		
	Title	Area of focus
Workshop 1	Choose a “just-right” book	Select a book
Workshop 2	I wonder...	Understand the story: Preview the book
Workshop 3	What if we add __?	Figure out the words: Develop vocabulary

Workshop 4	The most important sentence/word	Understand the story: Identify main idea and details
Workshop 5	Sing it!	Sound like a storyteller: Read with fluency & expression

Level D4		
	Title	Area of focus
Workshop 1	Choose a “just-right” book	Select a book
Workshop 2	Identifying genre	Understand the story: Preview the book
Workshop 3	Let’s go back	Sound like a storyteller: Read with fluency & expression
Workshop 4	Prove it	Understand the story: Ask and answer questions
Workshop 5	You read to me, I’ll read to you	Sound like a storyteller: Read with fluency & expression

Level D5		
	Title	Area of focus
Workshop 1	Choose a “just-right” book	Select a book
Workshop 2	Match the meaning	Sound like a storyteller: Read with fluency & expression
Workshop 3	Stop & say	Understand the story
Workshop 4	What did I learn? (nonfiction)	Understand the story: Identify main idea and details
Workshop 5	Word workshop	Figure out the word: Build vocabulary

Level D6		
	Title	Area of focus
Workshop 1	Choose a “just-right” book	Select a book
Workshop 2	Why am I reading this?	Understand the story: Preview the book

Workshop 3	What is another word to say ____?	Figure out the words: Build vocabulary
Workshop 4	What's the big idea?!	Understand the story: Identify main idea and details
Workshop 5	I'm thinking of a word ...	Understand the story: Build vocabulary

Family workshop full library curricula option

For returning school partners or other schools who feel ready and are interested, Springboard also offers a modular plan. In this plan, teachers and leaders preview the full library of 40 family workshops and choose workshops based on their students' and families' needs. **Please note, this is an "opt-in" option. If interested, sites must choose this option 3 weeks before the start of programming to "opt-out" of the all-level curricula option.**

Because this is an ever-evolving library, not all workshops are available in every language. Sites must carefully preview and select workshops. Also, **in this option, sites do not receive family workshop hard copies or materials from Springboard. Sites must download and print their own.** Springboard will send sites the universal family workshop participant packet which can be used in any workshop **upon request.**

Because each workshop is anchored to our mantra, "ask questions before, during, and after reading" and encourages families to ask questions to help their scholars figure out the words, sound like a storyteller, or understand the text they read, workshops can easily be matched into a cohesive scope and sequence.

In addition to discussing this option with onsite site-support staff, you may want to check out the "family workshop catalog" for a full list of the library of family workshops and guidance for creating your own curricula.