












Organize Parent Seminars and Focus Groups¹

Seminars and focus groups can provide parents with opportunities to network and share problems and solutions on topics of mutual interest and concern. Select topics based on your observations and conversations with parents and parent comments appearing on parent survey and feedback forms. Depending on staff knowledge and experience, seminars and focus groups may be led by staff members or by outside experts on the topic. Here are examples of typical topics of interest to parents of school-age children.

-  How to Communicate Effectively with Your Children.
-  How to Guide Children's Behavior as They Become More Independent.
-  How to Set Appropriate Limits for Children's Behavior; How to Handle Bullying.
-  How to Help Your Child Deal with Peer Pressure and/or Sibling Rivalry.
-  How to Guide Your Child's Television Watching, Use of the Internet, and Electronic Games.
-  How to Help Your Child Learn about Money (Spending, Saving, Giving, Investing).
-  How to Get Your Child Involved in Helping Out at Home.
-  How to Use Family Meetings to Keep the Family Working Together.
-  How to Manage the Challenges of Being a Single Parent.
-  How to Help Your Child Solve Problems and Conflicts.
-  How to Handle Anger in Children.

Other Ideas for Parent Seminars and Focus Groups of Interest to Parents in Your Program.....

¹ Excerpted with permission from Roberta L. Newman, *Building Relationships with Parents and Families in School-Age Programs, 2nd Edition, Revised*. New Albany, OH: School-Age NOTES, 2008. (Originally published in conjunction with Work/Family Directions, Boston, MA, AT&T Family Development Fund.) Page 120.