

## Building Block: Connection-Family Nights

### Family Nights

Most schools host Family-School Nights as a means of connection. In elementary schools, these may be reading nights, in middle schools they are often science fairs or math nights, and in high schools they may feature opportunities to meet with college representatives. Solid Foundation provides guidance for Family-School Nights so that these events strengthen connections among school community members and promote the goals of self-directed learning, reading/literacy, respect and responsibility, and school community. One important ingredient of a Family-School Night is the parent-child interactive activity. Planning for this interaction in a Family-School Night is an extension of that valuable feature between parent and child. However, it is also one more opportunity to strengthen face-to-face interaction between parent-parent and parent-teacher in a social setting that enriches the school community. Not only can a family night occur as a school-wide event, it can also be held just in an individual classroom or for a grade level.

Henderson and Mapp (2007) stress that “the more a program is expressly designed to improve student achievement...the more impact it will have” (pp. 81-82). We know that engaging families in children’s learning has a positive impact on student achievement.



## SOLID Foundation®

Reading • Studying • Respect • Responsibility

**Solid Foundation is a school-based team process that helps:**

- Strengthen family-school connections
- Engage parents in their children’s learning
- Improve student, academic and social learning

Check out Section 10, pgs. 35-42 of the Solid Foundation Resource Manual for guidelines about Family Night effective practices. Don’t forget you can also access this information online on your school’s Solid Foundation page, Step 6 “View Resource Manual”, Building Block: Connection – Family Nights or click here. [<http://www.adi.org/SFResourcesMenu/Connection.aspx>]



## Best Practices/Ideas

### Literacy Nights

- Theme based
- Storyteller Drama
- Author Night
- Make and Take a Book

### Math Nights

- Mystery Night with “Crack the Code Books”
- Game Night
- Math Fair (for MS/HS) – Families get to know what math classes are available and problem solve
- Parent vs. Student Game Show

### Other Family Nights

- Classrooms Host the Event
- Career Exploration
- Health and Safety
- Scavenger Hunts

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### More information can be found at:

[www.Center-School.org/pa-pirc](http://www.Center-School.org/pa-pirc)  
[www.adi.org/solidfoundation](http://www.adi.org/solidfoundation)  
[www.Families-Schools.org](http://www.Families-Schools.org)

### CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

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