

Tips for PPP Group Leaders

Thank you once again for continuing to serve the community by providing parent education groups in your work setting! We provide these guidelines based on our experiences to help things run smoothly as you organize and implement the groups.

1. Selecting time/dates

Consider the parents who may attend – would they prefer an evening group during the week, something on the weekend, a morning/day time group? How does it compare to their working schedules? Do some parents need childcare for younger ones in order to be able to come? Does it make sense to pick two possible times and then ask parents which they could attend, if you are in regular communication with them?

2. Promoting the group

Each site will be a little different in selecting the best strategies to inform parents about this opportunity.

- You may use an existing meeting time to let people know (e.g., parent meetings at school, church services, individual meetings, health fair, athletic event),
- you may post a flyer with the dates and contact info written in,
- you may think about other places where you can advertise (e.g., nearby neighborhoods with many Latino families? Nearby employers with many Latino workers? Nearby schools?)
- you may ask for help from other parents who have gone through PPP before and could encourage others to attend
- you may think about other Latino-serving institutions in your city that you have worked with in the past and that we could connect with to advertise the group
- Usually a group of about 15 people is an ideal size, but we also expect that not everyone who starts a group will finish it. You can start with 20 people, if you have that many interested parents, and put others on a waiting list.
- If you have a basic “registration” process to keep track of names and contact info for interested families, it becomes easier to communicate with them.

3. Preparing the materials

You will have the PPT’s and weekly handouts on the flash drive. We give the parents new handouts each week as a way to help encourage their attendance, so don’t fill up the binders with everything on week 1! Let us know what your other needs might be (e.g., technology, resources, contacts).

4. Preparing yourself

It makes sense to prepare in advance to review topics that you feel less certain about, review some of the websites that we use to supplement the information, think about how to handle difficult questions, etc. Please also remember that you can consult with each other or with community partners. Think about any special “guest speakers” you might want to invite to the group, whether for “graduation” or another week. Is there a parent leader you know who could serve as a role model to the participants? If you are not confident in your spoken Spanish, could you co-lead with someone who is fluent?

5. Running the group

You might want to arrive 15-20 minutes early to set up the computer and projector, put out the sign-up sheet and weekly handouts, and be ready to greet people when they arrive. Our hope is that each session contains some information for the parents, but also some opportunities to ask questions, interact, and become comfortable with each other. Consider the options of having a babysitter available if some parents would not be able to come without having a caregiver for a younger child, or providing snacks if the meeting is closer to a mealtime.

6. Documenting your Success!

We would love to hear from you if you do run a group or use these materials in some other way. Please stay in touch:

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