

How to Use Your Literacy Explorer Kit

1. Review the books and guides. We use the term *story share* to indicate a read aloud or story time for families. All activities were designed to offer options during a story share. Which story will best fit your event? Choose one book or hold an event for each book! See the **Family Literacy Event Guide Overview** (pg. 2) for more information.
2. Promote the event to families – distribute information to them about the celebration. We’ve included a promotional flyer to post and share with families.
3. Prepare for your event. We have provided many options on how to welcome families, share the book, and engage with them after reading.
 - a. Select the activities that fit your shared space and families – or do them all!
 - b. Carefully review the guide to be sure you have all materials prepared, are familiar with the book you are reading, and have all materials ready for families to take home. Suggested supply lists are included in each guide.
4. Add your own flair to the event. We assume you might modify activities or add your own ideas to the read aloud.

Thank You

We create free resources with the support of expert reviewers. We would like to thank the Charleston County Public Library (South Carolina), Gravette Public Library (Arkansas), and Irving ISD Adult Education (Texas) for lending their expertise and reviewing the Family Literacy Event Guides for *Little Blue Truck*, *The Day You Begin*, and *First Ladies Make History*.

Family Literacy Event Guide Overview

The Family Literacy Event Guides for each book are designed to offer a variety of options to engage with families, and they all follow the same format.

- **Welcome Activities:** Collaborative activities to build excitement and *background knowledge* as families arrive for the event. The suggested activities easily promote conversations and allow families and children to make connections at different exploring stations.
- **Opening Activity:** One to two suggested activities to transition families to a story share. This might include singing a song together or a collaborative activity.
- **Sharing the Story:** We use the term *story share* to indicate a read aloud or story time for families. This section provides a suggested roadmap for reading the story. You might use all the ideas and activities, choose a few, or create your own plan to share the story.
- **Exploring More:** After you read the story, complete one or more of these activities with families to extend the fun and learning.
- **Closing Activity:** Choose how you will say goodbye and send families home with their activity bags. We understand that some families may need to leave right after the story share or after completing a few of the “Exploring More” activities. Determine if you would like to share the closing activity when you finish reading the book or after the “Exploring More” activities. Either option works depending on your shared space and overall event plan.

We encourage you to modify this suggested event format or any activity based on families’ needs and interests, space, time, and supplies. You might use all the activities, or you might use only a few. You might rearrange the suggested order of the events. Enjoy creating fun learning opportunities for families with the Literacy Explorer Kits!