

## Workshop Agenda – Supporting Your Child at Home

### Goal:

- Parents will learn games & strategies that promote math and ELA skills for students in pre-k through fifth grade.

Time	Activity
5min	<p>Welcome parents to the workshop! If possible, provide childcare and make sure refreshments have been made available.</p> <p>Explain that today will be all about how parents can actively play and talk with their child in ways that support academic growth, specifically in math and English Language Arts (ELA). Frame today with a very simple idea – math and ELA can be fun, affordable, and easy. Parents should not feel like their level of English proficiency or personal experiences with education prevent them for actively promoting academic skills with their elementary aged child.</p>
	<p>Optional: If this workshop is the first or single meeting, give parents the opportunity to introduce themselves through a fun icebreaker. For example, have parents say their name followed by a fruit or animal that starts with the same letter (like Maria mariposa, Carl cat, Tara tomatoes). Have other parents or the facilitator recall each other's name and word.</p>
<p>25mins</p> <p>8-10mins per game &amp; group discussion</p> <p>5-7mins to discuss questions as a whole class</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Activity 2 – Fun with Math</b> (<i>Egg Carton Game &amp; What's that Number?</i>)</p> <p>Explain that parents will be breaking up into groups to try two different math games they can play with their child. Be sure to give the directions clearly and carefully <i>before</i> dividing parents; this minimizes confusion when creating groups. Show parents the instruction sheets and materials for each game. Explain that they should choose someone from their group to read the instructions aloud and that they should try to play the different options for each game. After they play the game a couple of different ways, they should discuss the following questions within their group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What did you enjoy about this game and what was difficult?</li> <li>- Could you imagine playing this with your child at home? Why or why not?</li> <li>- In what other ways could you use materials like this to create a game? Is there something similar you already do at home?</li> </ul> <p>Be sure to have these questions visibly written down and explain that you'll give parents a signal for when they should start to clean up their game and begin their discussion.</p> <p>Break up parents into two groups by having them count by twos, giving them a personal copy of the game instructions as they count off. One group should play the <i>Egg Carton Game</i> while the other plays <i>What's that number?</i></p> <p>Be sure to have plenty of game templates, sticky notes, beans, egg cartons, pens &amp; pencils. Depending on the number of people in the class, you might need multiple copies of all materials so all parents can play at once. Ideally parents should be able to take home a copy of the game instructions for the <i>Egg Carton Game</i> as well as instructions and blank game templates for <i>What's that Number?</i></p>

	<p>After 5 minutes, tell parents that they should clean up their area for the next group and begin discussing the questions on the board. If possible, have a facilitator sit in on the conversations and record key points.</p> <p>Have teams switch and repeat the process.</p> <p>After all parents have played and discussed both games in their groups, open up the discussion to the whole class. Try to focus on the third question, and encourage parents to share their own strategies or games. Remind parents to get creative and remember that math can be a fun and natural part of their life. Record shared games and strategies on the board.</p>
<p>30mins</p> <p>10-12mins per game &amp; group discussion</p> <p>6-10mins to discuss questions as a whole class</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Activity 3 – Letters &amp; Words</u></b> (<i>What a Mess!</i> &amp; <i>Drawing Letters</i>)</p> <p>Explain to parents that they will be repeating the same group process to play games focused on ELA. Be sure to emphasize that these games can promote vocabulary and language development in both English and Spanish. Parents are encouraged to play these games with their child in whatever language is most comfortable for them.</p> <p>Again, be sure to review the instructions and game materials before dividing parents into groups. Because <i>Drawing Letters</i> can sound complicated in the instructions, be sure to have an example puzzle ready to share. Remind parents to pick someone to read the instructions aloud when they settle into groups. Point out that they will be using the same discussion questions as before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What did you enjoy about this game and what was difficult?</li> <li>- Could you imagine playing this with your child at home? Why or why not?</li> <li>- In what other ways could you use materials like this to create a game? Is there something similar you already do at home?</li> </ul> <p>Break up parents into two groups by having them count by twos, giving them a personal copy of the game instructions as they count off. One group should play the <i>What a Mess!</i> while the other plays <i>Drawing Letters</i>. These games are more time-consuming because of the cutting and drawing, so make sure you have plenty of pre-cut alphabet sets for <i>What a Mess</i>. You can also pre-print outlines of common items (flowers, trucks, houses, animals) so they can color in an image of their choice for <i>Drawing Letters</i>.</p> <p>After all parents have played and discussed both games in their groups, open up the discussion to the whole class. Try to focus on the third question again, and encourage parents to share their own strategies or games. You can also have parents share the puzzles they made while they played <i>Drawing Letters</i>.</p> <p>Ideally parents should be able to take home a copy of the game instructions for both games as well as a letter template for <i>What a Mess!</i></p>

<p>15mins</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Activity 4 – Tips for Parents</u></b></p> <p>To wrap up, review the tip sheet with parents. Begin by asking parents to raise their hand if they usually ask their child “how was school?” Ask them to share what type of responses they typically get. Usually parents give examples like “fine, good, okay, I don’t know.” Explain to parents that this type of response is normal based on what is actually a very vague and open question. Draw a parallel to asking each other “how are you?” Typically even adults give short or superficial answers to this question. Now model a fun and specific question with a parent, like “Can tell me something you wish you could change about your day?” Usually this gets a laugh and a more developed response. Explain that to really have a good conversation, parents have to ask specific questions that get their child to really process their day. Questions can be silly, fun, and not academically related at first, as long as they begin to set up the conversation about school and learning. Remind parents that it is important to model this type of sharing. If they ask their child to share something that made them laugh, parents should also share something that made them laugh at home or work.</p> <p>After making these points, have parents volunteer to read the rest of the recommended questions on the tip sheet. If there is time you can also review the other tips, which focus on communication with the teacher and ways to model critical thinking at home. If you want to make this time more interactive, split parents into groups and have one group read the top section of tips, and one group read the bottom. Then bring the groups together to share what they’ve learned. You can also focus on the questions to ask your child and have parents brainstorm more possible questions (they can then read the rest of the tip sheet at home).</p>
<p>5-10mins</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Closing</u></b></p> <p>Finish the session by having parents quickly go around (share their name and animal/fruit again) and what game, tip, or question they will try with their child. Make sure all parents have materials to take home, and feel free to share other resources specific to your organization or community.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank parents for coming! If possible, have a small raffle to give away.</p>