
FATHER-TO-FATHER WORKSHOPS

Kingsley Elementary School

Naperville, Illinois

Often when we think about family involvement we immediately focus on the mother. This activity illustrates how schools can reach out to another significant family member, the father.

Three Kingsley Elementary teachers, who are fathers, conducted two Saturday morning workshops for Kingsley dads. The topics of the sessions were: Reading Together, Talking to Your Child, and Behavior Management. Each session aimed to help dads get ideas on these topics from teachers who are also parents. Perhaps more importantly, Kingsley fathers had an opportunity at each session to share their own experiences and insights. The workshops linked to our school improvement goal that we maintain and enhance the positive climate of Kingsley in order to provide the best possible environment for learning and to promote life-long citizenship.

The workshops proved very successful. The more than sixty dads who attended the sessions reported that the discussions at each session were valuable. The fathers' feedback on evaluation forms is evidence of the value of the father-to-father workshops.

Because of the overwhelmingly positive response to the sessions, these same teachers, interested fathers, and School/Family/Community Partnership representatives held a planning meeting in April. They determined the future directions for the father-to-father workshops, making Kingsley Elementary ready to involve more dads in their children's education.

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