

# Pajama Read Time

---

*East Franklin Elementary School  
Columbus, Ohio*

To encourage parents and their children to read more at home, teachers at East Franklin Elementary School put on their nighttime finest for an evening of books at the school. Wearing pajamas, teachers read aloud to similarly dressed students in the gym while their parents attended workshops designed to help them work on reading comprehension with their primary- or intermediate-grade children.

Title I teachers presented parents with strategies to assist with reading, including types of questions to ask before, during, and after reading a book, and how to help children learn new words. At the end of the workshop, parents filled out a questionnaire to provide feedback about what they had learned and what they would like more information about. Afterwards, parents met with their children to enjoy a treat and select a book to take home.

Funds from an OhioReads grant paid for the books distributed at Pajama Read Time, and the PTA provided the refreshments. The Title I Team advertised Pajama Read Time in the school newsletter and sent out fliers. Teachers made phone calls to many families and also chose which books they would read aloud. On the day of the event, the entire school community generated enthusiasm by dressing in their silliest pajamas.

For next year, the team plans to schedule the primary- and intermediate-grade workshops separately, so that parents can attend both if they wish. Pajama Read Night benefited parents by suggesting concrete strategies for

them to use with their children at home, while also providing the chance to bond more with their child and the school staff. As for the teachers, “Staff members were happy to provide an important learning opportunity for parents and students,” the principal explained. “My staff gets a kick out of dressing up or, in this case, dressing down.”

*Jeri Kerns, Principal  
(614) 801-8100  
Jeri\_Kerns@swcs.k12.oh.us*