

## Common Core Standard

Students will be able to write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.2](#)

## Learning Objective(s)

Students will organize a group “get together” activity to engage family members and build new friendships through the exchange of experiences and support.

## Materials

- Computer and projector
- Academic materials
- Family Sharing Infographic (attached)
- Activity Planner (attached)
- Invitation Template (attached)

## Opening Activity – Whole Class, 10 Minutes

## Activity Purpose

- To introduce the idea of combining family group meetings with a fun activity for the goal of building new friendships and sharing different experiences about their transition programs.

## Description of Activity

- Start the class showing the Family Sharing Activity Infographic using a projector.
- Discuss with students: How can families share their experiences?
- Then ask students to share one event where they came together with their own families. Give examples like:
  - Birthdays
  - Sport Events
  - School trips
  - Family Vacations



## Opening Activity - continued

1. Start a discussion about creating a fun activity for the purpose of inviting their families. Ask the students to brainstorm:
  - What family get together would you like to organize?
  - What kinds of activities could we do?
2. Write students' suggestions on the board so they can see all the ideas together and decide which one would be the best for them to plan.
3. Since it is the first activity, consider making it simple and convenient for all families to encourage participation.

### Assessment

Students will participate in the discussion and identify an activity they would like to organize for their families.

## Activity 1

### Activity Purpose:

To work as a group to plan the details and the schedule of the event that will gather the students' families.

### Description of Activity:

1. Project the Activity Planner on the board.
2. Guide the students through each item in the chart.
3. Provide assistance and advice as needed. If students struggle to decide, try giving them multiple choices of two to three items and call a vote. For example:
  - Would you like the time of the event to be at 12:00pm or 1:00pm?
  - Would you like the event to be Wednesday, Friday or on a Saturday?
  - Will the event be easier at school or a public park?

### Extension:

Involve the families of students in the planning process! Families could join your planning session at school or complete a survey indicating their preferences for a family activity. Families can also help by volunteering their time or resources during the event or by sharing their connections with resources in the community.

### Assessment:

Students will complete the Activity Planner together.

## Activity 2

### Activity Purpose

To create a meaningful and effective invitation for families.

### Description of Activity

- Provide students with a copy or projection of the Invitation Template. Discuss each component of the template. Explain that invitations help families know about an event.
- Emphasize the importance of including relevant information in the invitation (e.g., time, date, location) so that guests understand how to attend and what to expect.
- Have students work in groups of 2-3 on a computer or using arts, crafts, and digital printed invitation templates.
- Provide each student with a copy of the Activity Planner, so the students can see the information already planned and written from the previous lesson.
- Support the students by listening to their ideas while creating the invitation and encourage them to take turns in using the computer or set different roles, for example:
  - Announcer: announces the information from the Activity Planner to write it on the invitation
  - Scribe: writes the information on the computer or Invitation Template
  - Editor: checks to make sure everything is in place and correct
- Circulate and provide support as needed. Ensure that students are driving the development of their invitations.
- Review each invitation and make sure the information is accurate.

### Resource note:

There are many resources and templates on the internet when creating an invitation; for example, [canva.com](https://www.canva.com). Students can also use Microsoft Office or Publisher to create invitations.

### Assessment:

Students will work in groups and create their own customized invitations including the necessary information to be sent to their families.

## Closing Activity

### Description of Activity:

- Ask for volunteers to share their invitations with the rest of the group.
- Ask the students at the end of their presentation:
  - Why are invitations important?
  - How did you feel when finishing your own invitation?
  - What was your favorite part when making an invitation?
- Ask students who are listening if they have something to add or if they have additional questions.

# HOW CAN FAMILIES SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES?



PLAN AN ACTIVITY  
WHERE ALL CAN MEET  
AND BECOMES  
FRIENDS!

IN A FAMILY ACTIVITY  
WE ALL CAN:

Create relationships  
Strengthen our voices

Learn about:

Community Resources  
Education Resources  
Financial Resources

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Picnics, Dinner Parties, Bingos  
Game Day, Movies or Fairs.

# OUR ACTIVITY PLANNER

**Instructions:** With the help of your school providers, peers or transition team plan an activity for your family and your friends' family members to assist.

<b>Activity's Name</b>	
<b>Date of Activity</b>	
<b>Location and Time</b>	
<b>Purpose of the Event</b>	
<b>Number of Guests</b>	

<b>Foods and Drinks</b>	
<b>Decorations</b>	

## Schedule

<b>Start of the Event</b>	
<b>Things TO DO during the event</b>	→ → → → →
<b>Closing the Event</b>	

# What do you need to make an Invitation?

1. Title and/or Name of Event
2. People or organizations who are inviting.
3. Brief description of the event or purpose
4. Location
5. Date and Time

*\*You can decorate it in relation to the theme or purpose of the event.*



## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENT

ST. JOHNS ACADEMY SCHOOL

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Relax, meet other families and  
share your experiences in  
Transition Planning with  
others.

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IN TOWN'S PUBLIC PARK

August 2, 2020 | 2 PM |