



2008 Family Resource Center Writing Contest



The Family Resource Center is sponsoring its 13th annual writing contest. The theme for the writing contest is, "Kids Rule". Students from Williamson County Schools, Franklin Special School District, and local private schools will be asked to write an essay about how things would be better if kids were totally in charge. Be creative; tell us how kids would make a difference in the classroom, school, town, country, etc.

The deadline for the contest is February 29, 2008. Entry forms will be available at Williamson County Schools, FSSD schools, and the Franklin Public Library on January 14, 2008. Entry forms may also be obtained by calling our office at 472-5018 or 472-5013.

Winners will be notified by phone the week of March 31, 2008.

1st place winners: \$100
2nd place winners: \$50
3rd place winners: \$25

Free Parent Education Workshops

Topic: "Healthy Habits 101"

Date: January 10, 2008

Time: 6:00-7:30 pm.

Place: Franklin Public Library Conference Room

Speaker: Julie Hunt, Parent Columnist

Topic: "Parent Child Communication"

Date: February 7, 2008

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Place: Franklin Public Library Conference Room

Speaker: Julie Hunt, Parent Columnist

Topic: "Talking to Your Child About Sex"

Date: March 6, 2008

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Place: Fairview Middle School

Speaker: Kristina Giard, Health Educator

A light meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. All of our programs are free; however, we do ask that participants register. Please call 472-5018 or 472-5013 to register.

Please note all of our programs are subject to cancellation due to low enrollment and interest.

Quick Tip:



Read the same book your child is assigned.

Williamson County Family Resource Center

The Family Resource Center is a collaborative effort between Williamson County Schools and Franklin Special School District. Our purpose is to provide a partnership between parents, teachers, schools, and the community to help each child succeed in school. The Family Resource Center offers classes, workshops, Family Night Events, a lending library, referral services, and other programs that encourage parental involvement in their child's education.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Family Resource Center is to provide programs and services that build family strengths through prevention, education, support and networking in collaboration with other resources in the community.

Find Time for Family

Kids rely on their families for love, guidance and a sense of belonging. Without these things, it's hard to do well in school or in life. Activities like these will show your child she has family support:

Eat meals together. This is one of the best ways for family members to put each other first. Extend your time together by preparing and cleaning up as a family, too.

Take trips. Go to a concert, local museum or sports event. Ask your children, "What would you like to do?"

Have family meetings. Talk about family news, goals, concerns, and successes. This is a great time to reward kids' accomplishments.

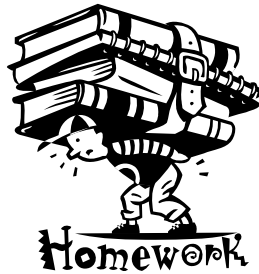
Play together. Choose games that everyone can enjoy, such as "charades," board games or "20 Questions." Let your children pick what to play.

Plan family nights. Decide together what to do, or take turns choosing. You might order pizza, bake cookies or see a movie. Sometimes invite another family to join you.

Do something silly. Some of the best family memories are the funniest ones. You might make breakfast for dinner, or dress in the craziest outfits you can find.

Relax. Some parents find that right after school is a great time to spend with children. The kids are ready to plop down, have a snack and talk about the day.

How Involved Should Parents Be?



It's important for parents to be home during study time. Research shows that the most successful students have parents who monitor schoolwork. That doesn't mean you have to stand over your child while he studies. But the younger your child is (or the more trouble he has with studying), the more you will need to be involved. Here are some ways to help without actually doing the work for your child:

- **Look over homework** with your child. Before he starts studying, discuss how he'll complete the assignment. Does he have all the supplies he'll need?
- **Work together at first.** Help your child get the hang of the assignment. Provide guidance as he does most of the work.
- **Watch your child work.** Make sure he understands the assignment and is completing it correctly.
- **Remain in the room.** Let your child study independently, but stay nearby to supervise and give encouragement.
- **Check finished homework.** Praise right answers and discuss wrong ones. Criticize in a helpful, not hurtful, way.
- **Avoid over-involvement.** As your child gets older and more capable, you should help less. But continue showing interest and pride in his work.

School Supplies and Personal Hygiene Items

The following items are supplied by the Family Resource Center for Williamson County residents with children who are on reduced lunches:

- ◆ Personal Hygiene Products
- ◆ Ink Pens & Pencils
- ◆ Paper
- ◆ Markers & Crayons
- ◆ Folders
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Rulers

Quick Tip:
Make a difference.
Volunteer in your child's school today.

Ways You Can make a Difference:

Find at least one small way to become involved in your child's school. In the process, you will:

1. Detect small problems before they become big.
2. Make a teacher's day.
3. Show your child you care about him or her.



Williamson County Family Resource Center

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