



NETWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

“PARENT POWER”

Literacy and Advocacy Workshops

We believe that parents are a child’s first, primary, and life-long teachers. Everything parents do at home to advance literacy has long-term effects on preparing a child for success in school and life. NdCAD’s “*Parent Power*” *Literacy & Advocacy Workshops* are designed to help parents build a strong literacy foundation in the home and equip them with the necessary tools to effectively advocate for children.

Goals of “Parent Power”

1. Help parents help children become silent, sustained, independent readers who enjoy reading, resulting in increased academic achievement.
2. Teach parents how to model and practice effective, research-based strategies that help children become better readers.
3. Equip parents with basic information that helps them advocate for their child and effectively communicate with teachers and the school.

“Parent Power” consists of a series of three, one and a half hour workshops that cover the following topics.

- Understanding your child’s independent reading level and reading assessments
- How to select appropriately leveled reading materials
- How to help your child understand what he or she reads
- Questions to ask your child’s teacher or child care provider

“Parent Power” aims to demystify what research says about what works to help children improve their reading and presents the information to parents in ways that are fun, experiential, and culturally responsive.

“PARENT POWER”

Parent Voices

My son was in a reading group at school that caused him a lot of frustration and anger, because he was trying to read books that were too difficult. He kept stumbling over words. I was able to talk with my son’s teacher about his independent reading level and the five-finger tests I learned from NdCAD. As a result, my son is now in a reading group that is closer to his reading level, one that gives him enough challenge to help him improve but without getting as frustrated and angry. -Kate

I finally understand my daughter. Before taking NdCAD’s Parent Power classes, my daughter resisted reading by herself for fun, in spite of my pushing her. During the classes, I learned how to pick books that are at her independent guided reading level. She enjoys reading independently more now because she can actually read the books. She is not resisting reading and resisting me like she used to. -Mary

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**“PARENT POWER”
Literacy and Advocacy
Workshop Descriptions**

Workshop #1	Workshop #2	Workshop #3
<p>The Basics:</p> <p>Parents learn the five basic elements or skills sets of reading that children are expected to master and use in school. Parents gain a basic understanding about reading assessments and how they relate to helping their child improve in reading.</p> <p>The workshop also helps parents understand the difference between their child’s reading level based upon grade and their “independent guided reading level”, the level at which they can successfully read in a silent, sustained, and independent manner – regardless of grade. This is critical in order to meet the child where they are at and help them make incremental improvements in reading.</p> <p>The workshop equips parents with useful knowledge and information that will empower them to effectively communicate with teachers and ask the “right questions” as they advocate for their child. Parents are also given NdCAD’s eleven-point “Parent Power” Checklist to help them track and use what they learn.</p>	<p>Matching Books to Readers:</p> <p>The workshop teaches parents the basics about “leveling books”, which means determining the reading level of a book or text. Parents learn how to level books using three simple techniques and resources. They explore text features commonly used in children’s literature and learn skills that will help them help their child select books that are interesting and that are matched to their reading level.</p> <p>The workshop strengthens parent’s ability to be actively involved in helping their child learn to love and appreciate reading. Parents are also equipped with knowledge they can use to monitor the reading materials used in the classroom setting.</p>	<p>The Seven Keys to Comprehension:</p> <p>Parents gain a deep and practical understanding of how to help their child gain meaning from what they read, which is the ultimate purpose of reading. They learn the basics of the Seven Keys to Comprehension and how to model each of the seven comprehension strategies with their child.</p> <p>The workshop helps parents make clear and obvious connections between reading comprehension and fun things they can do at home. For example, parents will reflect upon the family games many of us played like “21-Questions.” Research demonstrates that games like this not only provide hours of family fun but also build inferential thinking skills, which are an essential for every good reader. The ability to make inferences is the fourth of the seven keys to comprehension.</p> <p>As a part of the workshop, parents receive a complementary copy of the highly acclaimed and easy to read book, “7 Keys to Comprehension, How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It!” Additionally, they receive a set of easy to use comprehension skills posters.</p>