

Planning a Parent Meeting

It is exciting—you have several parents interested in meeting with you and talking about parenting . Now what?

Since you initiated the meeting, most will look to you to get the party started.

It is important to:

Prepare for each meeting—have a simple agenda—items for discussion or interesting articles that you want the group to see. After a few meetings, you should have a list of items participants wanted to talk about, but didn't have time to tackle. Keeping a running list ensures that everyone's concerns get equal attention. At the same time, be flexible. If someone brings up an interesting timely topic and most agree, then consider modifying the agenda.

Plan to attend the meetings —When group members spend time together and consistently attend meetings, strong levels of friendship will develop. As group leader, it is important that you attend the meetings. If you must miss, make sure the group knows ahead of time and ask someone to lead the meeting in your absence. Members of the group should also let someone know if they cannot come. This attention to attendance helps create a sense of importance of the group and the benefits of coming together.

Keep notes or a journal — keeping minutes helps remind you of ideas for future discussions or ideas that come from the group.



Be the Difference