

Family Reading Night

Wamsley Elementary School

Rifle, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Literacy is an area that is very important to student success, and one that parents and families are critical in helping to support. In order to foster and strengthen family engagement in literacy development, Wamsley Elementary School hosts Family Literacy Night at the local library. The goal of this event is to empower families with the skills necessary to help their children read at home, inform families of the literacy skills that children are learning, and to build relationships within the community.

The event begins with families being welcomed and given information about the night. During the evening, grade level teams create an activity that supports school-wide literacy goals and that parents can complete with their children at the library. Stations are set up around the library, and teachers interact with the families and students during these activities. An example of such an activity would be first grade students choosing books from the library shelves with their parents, reading the books together, and then the students practicing retelling the story.

After the literacy activities, families can enjoy a meal provided by the school. At the end of the evening, families are given materials that they can use at home to support literacy development. Prizes that have been solicited local businesses are given out throughout the evening, and families have the opportunity to sign up for a library card or to have any pre-existing library fines waived.

This event has been very successful, and is important as it allows families to participate in their children's literacy development in a laid-back environment, and it reinforces that learning can certainly occur at home. The materials given encourage families to engage in this learning with their students. Wamsley has a goal that 75% of all students be reading at grade level, and this past year they reached 77%. They believe it is in large part because of these family literacy nights. Additionally, the event allows partnerships to be formed and strengthen among families, school, and community partners.