

Stuff That Works Building Families

Chapter 2 **“Family Dinner”**

Take Action

Stuff That Works Building Families

Chapter 2 Take Action: Content

- Schedule a family dinner. Hand deliver a formal invite to each family member. Ask them to RSVP.
- Change it up and make it fun. Require formal dress one night. Have each family member bring an ingredient and help prepare.
- Invite friends to join you.
- Invest time on Stuffthatworksbooks.com

Stuff That Works Building Families

Chapter 2 Take Action: Action 1

Schedule a family dinner. Hand deliver a formal invite to each family member. Ask them to RSVP.

ACTION

Family dinners are truly a thing of the past for most of us.

Early on I tried dictating it and tried to enforce it. Often this backfired and left us all unsatisfied.

What I found that worked was to only have a family dinner every other month.

I made it an event and communicated it in advance. The idea was to make it cool and to make it unusual.

I made it an official party with invitations and RSVPs. As the kids got older I would include their friends.

IF a family member could not make it I made sure they missed out on something so special they would not miss it again.

Be creative and make it work!

EXAMPLES

Invitation

You are cordially invited to attend dinner and Mario Kart Races this Friday Evening.

Dinner will be Italian food and will begin at 7:00 PM sharp.

Following dinner we will race Mario Kart. Awards of \$100 will be paid to the winner, \$50 for second and \$25 for 3rd.

Following the races will be an awards ceremony with Root Beer floats.

Please RSVP by Thursday 12 noon

Dinner Ideas

1. Crab Boil and Lobster
2. Hire a Chef at a fine Hotel
3. Pick a recipe from a hat and then race to see who can make it fastest and best
4. Murder Mystery Dinner
5. Escape the Room Dinner

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Chapter 2 Take Action: Action 2

Change it up and make it fun. Require formal dress one night. Have each family member bring an ingredient and help prepare.

ACTION.

I have found that less is more in terms of frequency.

The desire is to pick a day each week or one day per month. I have tried all of these methods and more and could never really get it to work.

I did better when I randomized it and made sure there was at least 6 weeks between each event.

I also found that giving 4-8 days notice worked best. I found if I gave too much notice people would forget and have conflicts.

I tried to pick different Themes to the events that were relevant to the kids. I picked their favorite games or T.V. shows. I used Cosplay and roleplaying. I would give them budgets and take them shopping to Good Will to build costumes.

We tried different foods I knew they would like.

I did what I could to ensure they had to take some action not just show up. The more they had to do the more likely they were to engage. If they had to build a costume they showed up and strived to win the contest.

EXAMPLES

1. Pick a game and have them come as their favorite character
2. Make foods that represent things from the game.
3. Do Hot dogs on national hot dog day. Link it to a special day.
4. Make it a competition. Everyone has to bring ingredients for their favorite Taco. Or who can make the most unique Taco on a \$5 budget
5. Assign someone for appetizers, another for Salad, one for the main meal and another for desert.

Themes

1. Call of Duty
2. Favorite Holiday
3. Favorite nationality
4. Style of Clothing (Steampunk,)
5. Hat night, Shoe Night, Bow Tie, Ugly Sweater etc....
6. Healthy
7. Nasty
8. Chili Cook-off

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Chapter 2 Take Action: Action 3

Invite friends to join you.

ACTION.

Including your children's friends is a key component as they become older.

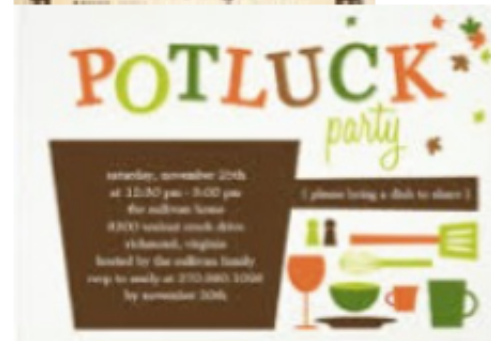
Including your friends can also make for a great event. If you explain you have invited a friend and you really want them to meet the entire family most family members will try and make that happen.

Friends make it exciting. You are never quite sure how they will engage or react so it makes it exciting and different for all.

You will also find that by including friends the peer pressure will force your children to engage.

It works.

EXAMPLES



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Chapter 2 Take Action: Action 4

Invest time on Stuffthatworksbooks.com to discover more ways to add fun to daily office life.

ACTION.

This is an easy one.

I believe that each of us can help someone else.

There is so much to know and to experience. You just can not do it on your own. So the best way forward is to share and learn from each other.

Technology makes this so easy today. That is why I built the web site Stuffthatworksbooks.com .

It only reaches its potential if you join in and add the stuff that works that you have found. Please make a contribution today. Help others find the Stuff That Works.

Others have already shared their stuff that works so be sure to check the site often as there is probably something to improve every area of your life.

The community is waiting and growing. I hope you will join in and make a positive difference.

Thank you!

EXAMPLES

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It is easy to share your Stuff That Works.

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Then select “Submit an Idea”.

Easy!

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