

Relationships begin forming between families and team members, as well as between families and other families around weeks 3 and 4 of the FAST® Sessions. During week 5, a Special Presentation is given around a topic/issue in which the families have identified as impacting children and families in their individual school community. This is an opportunity to have the Community Partner provide a brief, informative presentation on the topic that is family friendly and then guide the parents (with the support of the team) into family discussion around the topic.

As you prepare parents for the Special Presentation, please use these questions as a guide during weeks 3 and 4 of Parent Group to help parents brainstorm and decide on a topic for the 5th Week. This process can help empower parents to recognize the change they want to see happen in the lives of their children and have ownership in the process.

Guide a discussion on neighborhood/community needs.

Pose one of the following questions below to help get the conversation started:

- If you were given unlimited power and resources, what would your three wishes be for our neighborhood?
- Think about the news, what are the stories that trouble you the most?
- What are your fears facing our children and our neighborhood?

Have parents rank the list in order of highest to lowest.

- Go around the room and ask each parent to select their top concern.
- Keep a tally of votes as each parent shares their response.
- The concern with the most tallies will be the topic for the Special Presentation.

Have parents create family discussion questions.

- Ask parents to share what they want their children to know as it relates to the topic they would like to discuss.
- Record the thoughts as parents share them.
- Look over them as a group and look at how you can shape them into open-ended family discussion questions. (Who, what, when, where, why and how questions)

For example: Bullying

- What is bullying?
- Who can you talk to if you see someone being bullied?
- Where does bullying happen?
- Why does someone bully someone else?
- How can you respond if someone is bullying you or someone you know?

Prep the team and parents for the Special Session Presentation:

- Share the revised week 5 agenda with FAST Team and parents.
- As a team, discuss the format of the presentation and how team members will support in table-based coaching the parents during the session activities/presentation.