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# Turning the Page

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Chicago Community Nights Pilot Program | Fall 2014

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## TTP Engages Chicago Parents in their Children's Education

Turning the Page (TTP) engages public school parents to be more effective and active participants in their children's education. For the last 15 years, we have successfully engaged parents in Washington, D.C., public schools. **This fall we piloted our engagement work at KIPP Ascend Primary School, in North Lawndale.**

The first Community Night session focused on building successful parent-teacher relationships, as well as supporting children's reading progress. The second session enabled parents to select age-appropriate books that would captivate their children's imaginations. Plus, we were joined by Portia Latalladi, Branch Manager for the Chicago Public Library's Douglass Branch, who helped parents better understand and access the library's resources. The third session featured renowned author Candace Fleming and illustrator Eric Rohmann. Parents met both artists and engaged in a comprehensive dialogue about fostering young creative minds, while also receiving a signed copy of the book.

At the end of every Community Night, families enjoyed a healthy dinner, and parents received new, age-appropriate books to build their home libraries.

**Community Nights help schools make stronger connections with their students' families and support parents as their children's most important teachers.**

All workshops are based in children's literature and feature interactive, hands-on activities. But it's much more than fun and games. TTP parent workshops help create peer networks, providing a safe place to share success and challenges with other parents. Teachers also lead sections of workshops, providing parents with an invaluable school-specific perspective. Participating parents receive resources they can immediately use.

We held three Community Nights at KIPP Ascend this fall, each featuring our educational parent workshops led by trained, expert facilitators.

With TTP, parents become stronger educators of their children at home and advocates for their children in school.





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## What Parents are Saying after Community Nights at KIPP Ascend

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"I learned how to make books  
**come alive.**"

"Really get into character to make  
**reading more enjoyable.** Win an  
Oscar!"

"I appreciate the information on  
the **Chicago Public Library.** It's  
across the street from where I  
live, and I need to take advantage  
of these opportunities."

"When my kids are writing a story,  
have them **draw it out.**"

"I've been asking open-ended  
questions, **and it's working!**"

"I've used the resources to  
**encourage more reading** in our  
home."

"It's ok to let your child **write  
freely.**"

"I have used **at least four tips**  
from the first two sessions."

"I learned how I can get my son  
more involved in reading while  
having fun, **exploring and  
expanding his mind.**"

# Opportunities for TTP's Growth in Chicago

**TTP is poised to fill a crucial gap in Chicago students' educations, building on our extensive experience with parent engagement.**

In Washington, D.C., TTP has pioneered the field of parent engagement for the past 16 years, holding nearly 800 Community Nights and distributing more than 90,000 new books.

The impact is both measurable and critical. Families involved with TTP log an additional 26 school days each year of at-home reading. Additionally, a 2012 external assessment found that students with families in TTP for more than three years have higher levels of comprehension, fluency and reading motivation than those who are new to TTP.

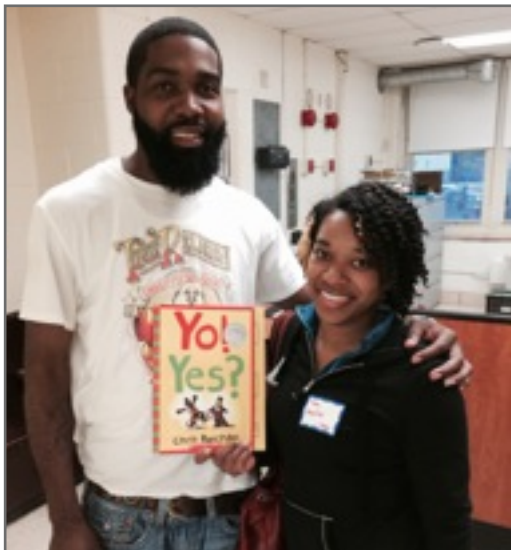
**In Chicago, we strive to implement a full-year partnership at three North Lawndale schools in the 2015-16 school year.** In addition to more Community Nights, partnerships would feature family museum experiences, special creative programming, parent leadership development and more. Learn more about our work at [turningthepage.org](http://turningthepage.org).







Three nights,  
80+ parents,  
400+ books...



...and our Chicago story is just beginning!