



Family Dialogue Journals: School-Home Partnerships That Support Student Learning (Practitioner Inquiry)

JoBeth Allen, Jennifer Beaty, Angela Dean, Joseph Jones, Stephanie Smith Mathews, Jen McCreight, Amber M. Simmons, Elyse Schwedler

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This honest, clearly written, and accessible book shows how to use Family Dialogue Journals (FDJs) to increase and deepen learning across grade levels. Written by K–12 teachers who have been implementing and studying the use of weekly journals for several years, it shares what they have learned and why they have found FDJs to be an invaluable tool for forming effective partnerships with families. Learn from first-hand accounts how students write weekly about one big idea they have studied, ask a family member a related question, and then solicit their writing in the journal. Through these journal entries, they share their family knowledge with classmates while actively engaging with the curriculum. In turn, teachers extend the academic discussion by writing to each family and incorporating their funds of knowledge into classroom lessons—writing about everything from the use of thermometers to life in Michoacán, Mexico. Family participation in the FDJs is remarkably high across ages, ethnicities, and economic realities.

“This is an incredibly readable book that is highly useful for teachers, teacher educators, and university researchers interested in this powerful practice. The descriptions of the classrooms are riveting and exemplify the kind of teaching we would all like to see in every classroom.”

—**Kathy Schultz**, dean and professor, Mills College

“*Family Dialogue Journals* is a beautiful, socially conscious book offering so much wisdom for curriculum, classroom norms, and creating learning-focused contexts. Readers will be immersed in classroom contexts, teachers’ decisionmaking processes, and practical advice about how to foster a humble, genuine, ongoing dialogue built upon mutual respect and openness with their students and students’ families. *Family Dialogue Journals* doesn’t just demonstrate the power of interpersonal relationships, it links those dialogues and relationships directly to curriculum and supporting students’ critical literacies of both community and academic ways of knowing and being. *Family Dialogue Journals* is a beautiful, socially conscious book offering so much wisdom for curriculum, classroom norms, and creating learning-focused contexts.”

—**Stephanie Jones**, professor, University of Georgia

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From reader reviews:

Frances Small:

Why? Because this Family Dialogue Journals: School-Home Partnerships That Support Student Learning (Practitioner Inquiry) is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such wonderful way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were being you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Jenna Springer:

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Allison Morales:

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