

YOU Program FAQs



How is the YOU Program different than other parenting programs?

The YOU Program is unique for a variety of reasons:

- It guides parents from birth through high school and beyond.
- It promotes sustained family literacy and learning experiences.
- It introduces parents to the expectations of teachers and schools, explaining standards and assessments, and providing best practices for communication with teachers and getting involved at the school.
- It is built with a comprehensive approach to a child's needs, helping parents to make sure to focus on physical, emotional, social, and academic needs.
- It is imbedded with an unparalleled level of cultural competency, validating the strengths of individual communities and encouraging parents to rely on those strengths as they prepare their child for success.

What languages is the program available in?

All parent-facing materials and workshops can be provided in English, Spanish, or a combination of both. All training materials and workshops are currently only available in English. Our Program Specialists, however, have experience working with schools and other organizations to reach a wide-range of language populations through the use of on-site interpreters or through the training of bilingual community members.

What if I already have parenting programs in place? Do I need to start over?

The YOU: Your Child's First Teacher program is flexible enough to be your parent engagement program if you don't have any. It can also help supplement any of your existing parent engagement programs. Think of YOU: Your Child's First Teacher as the spine to any parent engagement efforts you have or plan to have.

Can I buy just one of the books out of the set for my parents?

No, the books are only sold in a set. While the series was developed so that each parent only has to focus on the age that their child is right now, the mission and purpose of the program is to empower parents throughout their entire parenting journey. We encourage all parents to read behind to reflect on their journey so far, and to read ahead to plan for the journey to come. The program is designed to show parents that their role may change over the course of the journey, but their importance never diminishes.

Some of my parents in my community have a low literacy rate. Can they still participate in the program?

Yes, our YOU: Your Child's First Teacher book sets are at a low reading level, so parents with a low literacy rate can still understand the material. Workshops are interactive and the books are read out loud, so all parents can participate.

What are some ways that schools or organizations have funded this program?

The YOU Program has been funded using Title I (low-income), Title II (professional development), Title III (English Language Learners), and Title IX (teen parents) federal grants. The YOU Program was designed to support schools and organizations in their efforts to build effective home-school partnerships and to help build parents' capacity to support their child's academic success. This makes the YOU Program a comprehensive addition to any Title I, Title II, or Title III program, and has aided schools in meeting their federal compliance obligations. Additional funds have come from Head Start/Title I program partnerships, superintendent-led initiatives, PTA fundraising, corporate sponsorships, community-based grants, as well as legislature-backed appropriations.

How long is the Parent Workshop?

The parent workshop is 4 hours in length.

Can my staff attend the Parent Workshop?

Yes! We encourage school/organization staff and representatives to attend the Parent Workshop along with the parents.

Does the Parent Workshop include meals and/or refreshments?

No, the workshop does not include meals and/or refreshments. Those items must be provided and organized by the customer if they will be offered to workshop attendees.

Is there a minimum attendee requirement for the Parent Workshop?

Our smallest Parent Workshop available is for up to 30 attendees. Your school/organization can work with other local schools or organizations to create a single event.

Do attendees of the Parent Workshop receive a certificate?

Yes, all parents who attend our Parent Workshops will receive a YOU Parent certificate. The names and contact information for all attendees will be collected at the workshop to create the certificates. They will then be mailed to the customer for distribution as a followup touchpoint with the attendees.

Can I attend a Training Workshop without a Training Manual?

No, the Training Manual purchase is required to participate in the Training Workshop. In the Training Workshop, attendees are guided on how to use the Training Manual and navigate through the tools within it.

What languages is the Training Manual available in?

The Training Manual is available in English and Spanish.

Do I need to buy the book sets if I buy the Training Manual?

The entire 3-book set is reproduced in a smaller size within the Training Manual. It is not necessary to purchase the 3-book set, but we do recommend it so that when speaking with parents you have a copy of the set they are using as a sample. Also, the 3-book set is small and portable to carry around, unlike the Training Manual.

Can I purchase extra Training Manuals?

Yes, extra Training Manuals are allowed to be purchased.

What kind of information is in the Training Manual?

The Training Manual includes instructional information, workshop activity suggestions, and cultural connections for all the tasks in the 3-book sets. Aside from that, there are guides and lesson plan worksheets for conducting your own workshop, tools to navigate through the program through theme threads, and sample evaluations.

Can I make copies of the pages in the manual?

Yes, you can make copies from the first 38 pages of the manual that include lesson plans, outlines and instructions. We do not encourage you to copy the other pages of the manual because they include images from the YOU books and those are not meant to be duplicated without copyright permissions.

Can I buy and use the Training Manual without going through a Training Workshop?

The Training Manual is available for individual sale but it is highly recommended to be purchased along with a Training Workshop to capture it's full use and potential.

How long is the training workshop?

The training workshop is 6 hours in length.

Is the training workshop only for staff? Can I send parents to the training workshop?

No, the training workshop isn't exclusive for staff. Parents can attend the training workshop as well. Schools/Organizations can identify parents as leaders and can provide them with the tools, skills, and strategies to be partners in parent engagement efforts.

Does the Training Workshop include meals and/or refreshments?

No, the workshop does not include meals and/or refreshments. Those items must be provided and organized by the customer if they will be offered to workshop attendees.

Is there a minimum attendee requirement for the training workshop?

Our smallest Training Workshop is for up to 15 attendees. Your school/organization can work with other local schools or organizations to help build a single event.

Do attendees of the Training Workshop receive a certificate?

Yes, everyone who attends our training workshop will receive a YOU Program Leader certificate. The names and contact information for all attendees will be collected at the workshop to create the certificates. They will then be mailed to the client within one month of the Training Workshop attended.

Do I have to provide my own evaluations for the workshops?

No, we provide evaluations for the workshops. You are more than welcome to supply your own as a supplement to the one we provide.

What happens after the workshop?

After the workshop is completed, our YOU Program Specialists compile a workshop summary packet which includes: sign-in sheets, media consent forms, evaluations, and a summary of feedback. A copy of this packet is provided to you for your records. Certificates for all attendees are also generated and mailed to individual attendees or to the school/organization as requested.

How much does the YOU Parent Community cost?

As part of the YOU Program, the YOU Parent Community is available for free. Access all of the articles and forum discussions by visiting the website, www.YOUParent.com. If you would like to vote in the weekly polls or participate in the forum discussions, you will need to create a username and password, which is also free.

Do you have references I can contact if I want to ask about their experience with the program?

Yes, we can provide a list of program references for your review.