

2016-2017 Meeting Schedule

September 13, 2016	8:00am
October 11, 2016	6:30pm
November 8, 2016	8:00am
December 13, 2016	6:30pm
January 10, 2017	8:00am
February 14, 2017	time TBD
March 14, 2017	8:00am
April 11, 2017	time TBD
May 9, 2017	8:00am
June 13, 2017	time TBD

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, and take place in the gym, with the exception of the October meeting which will be held in the lunchroom.

Due to parent feedback and to give more parents the opportunity to attend meetings, we have modified the schedule to include some evening meetings. If these meetings are well attended, we will continue to alternate throughout the year. A final schedule will be posted in January.

Mission Statement

The Family Team consists of all parents and guardians of children enrolled in the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center. The purpose of the Family Team is to support the theory of the Reggio Emilia approach to education which includes the rights of families to be actively involved in the daily life of the school; to realize the mission for the Discovery Center; to provide opportunities for family involvement and collaboration with staff; and to join in a partnership with teachers and community to build a quality school.

The Role of Families

Families play an integral role in the learning experiences of the children. The rights and responsibilities of the Family Team members are:

1. Grow their understandings about the philosophy of the school.
2. Participate in the life of the school in various ways.
3. Help ensure the welfare of all children in the school.
4. Help develop community with other members of the Family Team.
5. Find a voice in and cultivate a relationship with the Discovery of his/her child.

The Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center needs family support and participation to maximize the benefits of our Reggio Emilia inspired approach towards learning. Families are encouraged to utilize their Family Team membership to build relationships, grow understandings and to make their unique talents available to the school community. Family Team meetings are held monthly and all are encouraged to attend.



GRCDC Family Team General Information & FAQ

"Education based on relationships"

Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center

409 Lafayette Ave SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

(616) 459-0330

FAQ

What is the Family Team?

The Family Team is the parent-teacher organization of the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center.

Who belongs to the Family Team?

The Family Team consists of all parents and guardians of children enrolled in the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center.

Who can attend Family Team meetings?

Anyone who is a parent or guardian of a child at GRCDC may attend. Staff members are welcome too.

When are meetings?

Family Team meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, but times vary. The Link Letter that goes out each Monday will have a reminder the week before. We also post reminders on Facebook, and you can find dates for all meetings on the school calendar on the GRCDC website.

I'm responsible for children during meeting times. Is it okay if I bring them?

Yes! Although childcare is not provided, children are always welcome.

None of the meeting times work for me. How can I stay informed?

The best source of information is always the Link Letter that you get every Monday. We also post minutes after each meeting, and occasionally send out emails. If you do not already get emails from the Family Team, you can email us at GRCDCFamilyTeam@gmail.com to be added to the list. For Facebook users, the Family Team maintains the *Friends of the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center* Facebook page.

How else can I be involved with the Family Team?

There are many ways to volunteer with the Family Team, even if you work during the day. Parent help is always needed around the school, at events, during teacher appreciation week, and with fundraising. There are ways to help from home too, if you prefer. Volunteer opportunities are shared at meetings, in the Link Letter, and on Facebook.

I've been attending meetings and volunteering, but I'd like to be even more involved with the Family Team. What else can I do?

Our current co-stewards are nearing the end of their two year term, and we would love to identify their successors by winter break to give them ample time to learn the role before taking over at the end of this school year. Detailed information about the role will be outlined at a future Family Team meeting.

You do a lot of fundraising. How does the Family Team use the money it raises?

The money we raise is used to support the goals of the Family Team, with the primary intent of helping ensure an equity of experience for all children. One of our main fundraising projects allows us to give every child a yearbook. We also help support many extracurricular activities, sponsor free and low-cost social events throughout the school year, and give directly to individual Discoveries to help fund field trips, enrichment materials, and events.

This doesn't sound very much like the PTO at my child's last school. How else are you different?

The GRCDC Family Team strives to be inclusive by automatically including all parents and guardians as members of the Family Team, and inviting them to take an active role in supporting their children's educations by being involved in whatever ways are best suited to their individual skills and availability.

I have more questions. How do I contact the Family Team?

Our Family Team co-stewards are Jessie Hammond and Natasha Nyberg. The best way to contact them is via email at GRCDCFamilyTeam@gmail.com.