

Slater University Workshops

Slater Elementary School

Lakewood, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Slater Elementary School teachers and staff partnered to create family workshops called Slater University. The goal of the university is to have families, students, and school community more engaged in learning. The hope is that by providing these workshops throughout the school year, families will feel empowered to support their children’s learning outside of school. Slater held the first workshop in May 2019 and will provide more during the 2019-20 school year based on the needs and wants of students and their families.

Slater University started the workshops with a free dinner and icebreaker game. The first workshops focused on time management and healthy eating. They helped families learn ways to create healthy family meals, spend quality time together, and use time management for a successful, engaging summer schedule. Families created color-coded calendars and came up with easy visual ideas for their children to help with everyday chores. A few other topics staff focused on were ways to help save money while grocery shopping and ideas for summer activities linked to learning.

At the end of each workshop, families completed a survey asking for helpful feedback, such as ways to improve. The survey always ends with the question, “What topics would you like to see presented at the next workshop?” Knowing what their families need help and support with is important! One family said, “Feeling supported by staff and being able to talk with others and get ideas from one another was so helpful!”

Families who returned fully-completed surveys were entered to win a year membership to the zoo and nature and science museum. Slater families were so positively impacted that they requested the workshops happen monthly next school year.



The Slater community is encouraged to work together to help celebrate individual student success with phone calls home, as well as when coming together again at Slater University Workshops. They know they have reached their goals if families, students, and the broader community are both seeing an increase in engagement and participation at school and at home. Staff will always share progress with their families.

Slater’s Family Engagement Liaison hopes to empower families by creating helpful workshops as a community to help break barriers to improve student success! She offers the following advice for schools interested in replicating the workshops: “Food and icebreakers are a great incentive to get families together and bond with each other. Have any children who attend workshops be given the choice to actively attend the workshops or choose an activity provided to ensure families are able to fully grasp and benefit all helpful information given.”