

(cut apart for host tip sheet handouts)
Family Café Hosts - Dos and Don'ts

Dos

Do encourage and nurture conversation.
Do make sure everyone gets a chance to speak.
Do share your own understanding about the question briefly.
Do ask follow up questions to gain clarity and help parents explore what the questions mean to them more deeply.
Do take all the time you have to deepen the conversation.
Do make note of serious issues – such as abuse, domestic violence or drug abuse that a parent brings up and make sure they get support.
Do use body language to convey interest and attention-nod, use eye contact and lean into the speaker.

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Don'ts

Don't fill every silence, but be comfortable with silence. Silence means reflection, which takes the conversation deeper.

Don't direct the conversation, for example, by going around the table and asking each person to answer the questions.

Don't feel obligated to respond to every comment – let the group respond

Don't analyze other people's comments too much – your job is to model, not control.

Don't let people give advice or have two conversations at once.

Don't try to solve every problem or deal with every issue as it comes up.

Don't control the conversation by sharing your own experience.

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