



Mom's LitClub Overview

LitWorld strengthens kids and communities through the power of story. LitWorld's Mom's LitClubs offer members a safe space in which to explore their literacy and social emotional well being with the guided mentorship of a LitClub Leader. Mom's LitClubs cultivate strong, confident, hopeful community leaders who believe in the power of story and the importance of words to change worlds.

LitWorld's Moms LitClub provide women of all social, economic and educational backgrounds with opportunities to:

- Build a social support network within their community;
- Build confidence so that they are better able to actively and constructively engage with their own children;
- Acquire strategies that can support their children's literacy development;
- Sustain and develop their literacy skills.

The 7 Strengths

LitWorld's Mom's LitClub sessions are structured around LitWorld's 7 Strengths, foundational ideas that promote resilience and create new ways to reach every person as a reader, learner, and writer.

Belonging: Identifying as a needed, loved, and respected member of one's family, community, and world as a whole

Curiosity: Fostering a willingness to explore new territory and test new theories

Friendship: Having close, trusting relationships with other s

Kindness: Being tender towards others in the world who are in need, both near and far

Confidence: Thinking independently and expressing ideas with assurance

Courage: The strength to do something that you know is right, even though it may be difficult

Hope: Thinking optimistically and believing that today's efforts will produce good things in the future for yourself and for the world

The attached sample lesson shows how each session ties mentoring and leadership-building to The 7 Strengths. We are excited to begin the Moms LitClub journey together!

☸ Moms LitClub Year

- ✓ *Session 1 What is a Moms LitClub? Why is literacy important?*
- ✓ *Session 2 Welcome to My World*
- ✓ *Session 3 Personal Journals*
- ✓ *Session 4 My Comic Book*
- ✓ *Session 5 Seven Strengths*
- ✓ *Session 6 Importance of Telling Stories=*
- ✓ *Session 7 One-Question Interviews*
- ✓ *Session 8 Challenges of Spending Time With Children*
- ✓ *Session 9 Everyday Activities to Support Children's Development*
- ✓ *Session 10 Telling Stories Using Pictures in Books*
- ✓ *Session 11 Heart Maps*
- ✓ *Session 12 Read Aloud*
- ✓ *Session 13 Importance of Reading/Storytelling with Children*
- ✓ *Session 14 Challenges of Reading/Storytelling With Children*
- ✓ *Session 15 Trip/Activity/Guest Visit*
- ✓ *Session 16 What is Friendship?*
- ✓ *Session 17 Responding to A Cause*
- ✓ *Session 18 Building Characters to Tell a Story*
- ✓ *Session 19 Messages of Positivity*
- ✓ *Session 20 Inspiration Boards*
- ✓ *Session 21 Guest Visit/Trip*
- ✓ *Session 22 Small Acts of Courage*
- ✓ *Session 23 Reading with Children of Different Ages*
- ✓ *Session 24 Music Poem*
- ✓ *Session 25 Books for Different Ages*
- ✓ *Session 26 Tying It All Together*

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LitClub Sample Structure

Follow this picture guide for each LitClub session. A successful LitClub session includes all four steps!

1. Welcome



Hello Song

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Check In Question

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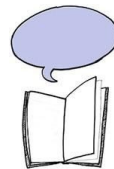
Community Building Activity

2. Read Aloud



Read Aloud

+



Discussion

3. Core Activity



Core Activity

+



Discussion

4. Wrap Up



Praise Circle

+



Goodbye Song

Sample Lesson:

Unit 1, Session 2 - Welcome to My World



The Welcome

The LitWorld Mom's LitClub Welcome is made up of **The Hello Song**, the **Check In Question** and the **Community Building Activity**.

In every lesson, we offer LitClub leaders concrete examples of what they can say to engage LitClub members and build a community and safe space for friendship building.



The Hello Song

Welcome members to every session by greeting them by name.

You can say: *Welcome back, everyone! We will start today with The Hello Song.*

*Hello Name 1
Hello Name 2
Hello Name 3,
We're glad to see you here!*

Keep going until you say hello to everyone, and end with:

*Hello readers,
Hello writers,
Hello friends,
We're glad to see you here!*

For the tune, refer to the recording in your kit materials or on LitWorld's *YouTube channel*

Singing The Hello Song is a ritual that helps mark a joyful entry into the Mom's LitClub safe space. As LitClub members become more comfortable with each other, they may adopt an alternate ritual or tradition for the same purpose.



Check-In Question

Ask members the following check in question, and have them record their response in their notebooks

Check In Question:

What about your world brings you joy? Describe something from your life (person, place, thing, or another idea) that makes you happy. Turn to your friend and share.

After members have recorded their responses in their notebooks, have them turn and share with a partner. Once members have had a moment to turn and share, invite members to raise hands to share out. with the group.

The Check-in question allows LitClub leaders to get to know members on a personal level and become a support system for members in their everyday lives.



Community Building Activity - The Human Knot

This activity is a fun, active way for the members to improve their teamwork skills while laughing and problem solving, too.

1. With the members, stand together in a circle with little to no space between them.
2. Have all the members put both hands into the center of the circle and randomly hold on to someone else's hand. Make sure that they are not holding on to only one person. Each hand should be holding a different member's hand.
3. After everyone has connected their hands, explain that they are now a human knot.
You can say:
Look around! You are all stuck together like a human knot! Now, let's try to unknot ourselves without letting go of each other's hands. This will take a lot of communication and teamwork, but should be a lot of fun!
4. Without letting go of each other's hands, encourage members to try to get back to the original circle.
5. While trying to unknot yourselves, make sure you encourage a lot of communication and laughter.
6. After you and the members have successfully unknotted yourselves congratulate them and have them take a seat for the Read Aloud.

Community building is one of the most important aspects of the LitClub model. Taking the time to get to know each member as an individual while building community together is integral to our sessions and helps create a safe space for sharing and growth.



The Read Aloud

This portion of the Mom's LitClub is made up of a **Read Aloud**, and **Discussion**. During this time, mentors will read a picture book, poem, short story or excerpt and model read aloud techniques that members can use with their children.

1. Have members sit in a circle.
2. Choose one reading from your Read Aloud List, or a book that you have chosen to go with the lesson, to share with your group.
3. When you are done, lead a discussion based on the prompts included in your leaders guide

During the read aloud, mentors should use the same techniques they would if they were reading the book to children, including making predictions, changing your voice for different characters, showing the illustrations, and asking open-ended questions. Mentors should prompt conversation about these strategies with members.



Core Activity - Welcome to My World

This section of the Mom's LitClub is made up of **Core Activity**, and a **Discussion**. The Core Activity is a literacy based opportunity for members to explore their own stories and creativity. The Core Activity is always something that can be replicated at home with members' children as well.

Welcome to My World allows members to use their imaginations to envision the perfect world. After they have taken some time to brainstorm and share with the group, members will use words, drawings, and/or pictures to create a poster illustrating their perfect world.

Materials:

1. Lined paper
 2. Unlined paper
 3. Markers
 4. Magazines
 5. Glue
 6. Tape or tacks
1. To get the members started you can say,
Today, each of you is going to create your perfect world. In your world, anything is possible. Whatever you create, let it be the most wonderful, happy place you can imagine. First, take out a piece of lined piece of paper and take about 5 minutes to write about your perfect world.

If the members are having a hard time getting started you can ask them these questions:

What would be in it? Who would be in it? What would the rules be like? Would there be any rules?

2. After the members have finished writing you can have them share if they wish. After they are done sharing, have them take out their unlined paper, markers, pencils, pictures, and/or

scissors and tell them that they now get to create a picture of their perfect world. You can say,

Now that you have had time to write about your perfect world, let's take some time to draw your perfect world. Using the supplies I just passed out, take some time to draw/collage/illustrate your world. After you are done creating we will share with the group.

3. After the members are done creating and have all had a turn to share, you can collect the Perfect World posters and put them on display in the space you are using.

The Core Activity engages members with the main strength of the day. Core Activities range from writing to discussion to theater to art to music. The core activity allows LitClub Leaders time to coach, mentor, and model good reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.



Wrap-up and Goodbye

This section of the Mom's LitClub is made up of **Praise Circle**, and **Goodbye Song**. At the end of each session, you can also review what you've done and what you've talked about. Answer any last minute questions and praise what the members have accomplished. You can say:

Thank you all for envisioning a perfect world with me. It isn't always easy to step outside of our comfort zones but it's rewarding when we do! What was easy about this activity? What was hard?



Praise Circle

Have the members sit or stand in a circle. You can start by saying:

To celebrate our work today, let's give each other praise. We are going to go around the circle and the person to your right is going to say one positive thing about you. Let's each take a few moments to think of a special compliment for the member next to you.

1. Start the praise circle off by giving positive praise to the person immediately to your right. Make sure your praise is specific and substantive. Avoid making your praise about a member's personal appearance or clothing.
2. Encourage the entire group to give "shooting stars" to the person who was praised.
3. Encourage the person to your right to give praise to the person next to them.
4. Continue until everyone in the circle has received praise from the person standing next to them.

LitClub Leaders should embrace this time to focus on the strengths of each LitClub member and reinforce the positive self-image, leadership and hopeful future outlook of each member.



Goodbye Song

Always say goodbye for now and remind members of when you will be together again. End the session with the *Goodbye Song*.

So Long, Farewell, Goodbye Song
So long, farewell, goodbye my friends,
So long, farewell, goodbye.
I'll see you soon again my friends,
So, so long, farewell, goodbye.

Ending the day with the Goodbye Song wraps up each LitClub session with the reminder that the members form a special community of learners, friends, and leaders.

LitClub FAQ

Q: What is a LitWorld Mom's LitClub?

A: LitWorld Mom's LitClubs are programs that build self-confidence , promote leadership, and build community for caregivers as they acquire new skills for supporting their childrens' literacy and social emotional lives.

Mom's LitClub sessions are structured around LitWorld's 7 Strengths, foundational ideas that promote resilience and create new pathways for reaching every person as a reader, learner, writer.

Mom's LitClubs place a high value on the power of the read aloud and a child's own desire to become a lifelong reader.

Q: What are the 7 Strengths?

A: LitWorld developed the 7 Strengths model in collaboration with children and communities around the world. When we asked what the most important values were, the 7 strengths came up over and over again. The 7 Strengths form the basis of all our curriculum development and reflect an openness to culture , language and customs that vary greatly from country to country. These Strengths can be fostered through literacy, and help to cultivate resilience. The Strengths are defined by the community itself, and the definitions are redefined and reimaged based on the experiences and understandings of the children in the Club. Through reading, writing and storytelling, the participants create and refresh the meanings of each of these terms. Basic definitions of the Seven Strengths are outlined on page 1.

Q: How is Mom's LitClub flexible and open to the needs of my community?

A: Mom's LitClub is a flexible model that can be modified to meet the needs and realities of your community. During training sessions, Mom's LitClub Mentors are encouraged to share what they think will work best and any changes they think they will need to make to the existing lessons. Mom's LitClub Mentors encourage the use of locally produced texts that lend themselves to new lessons and other kinds of inspirations. We welcome these additions and love when our Clubs share their great ideas.

Q: How often does a Mom's LitClub meet?

A: The Mom's LitClub meets once a week at a time that is most beneficial to the community. Each session is typically about 90 minutes.

Q: What is the duration of a Mom's LitClub?

A: There are 26 Mom's LitClubs sessions which typically take about a year to complete

Q: How can I learn how to run a Mom's LitClub?

A: LitWorld offers virtual trainings via Skype , Facebook and Whatsapp. If you are a LitWorld partner, you will receive free weekly check-ins from the LitWorld team to troubleshoot and brainstorm.

