Parent Visit Nights at Community Montessori in Boulder provide parents with an opportunity to learn what their students are doing in class time, as well as how students use their Montessori materials in their learning on a regular basis. Parent Visit Nights give parents a chance to engage with their student around learning, and to connect with the school in a positive and fun way.

Prior to the scheduled Parent Visit Night, students work in collaboration with their teachers toward creating a plan to show the parents the different materials the students use in their learning. Students spend about two hours preparing a presentation for their parents, then practicing the lesson they will give to their parents. Students are then responsible for their own presentation during Parent Visit Night while working with their parents as a group and with minimum intervention from the teacher.

To provide enough room to students for their presentations, the class can be divided into two groups, with one group scheduled for the first 45 minutes of the event and the second group scheduled for the last 45 minutes of the event. Parent Visit Nights are scheduled into the School Calendar and occur before parent-teacher conferences. This gives parents an opportunity to ask teachers follow-up questions about the lessons they heard and what their student presented on. Once scheduled, office staff send reminders to parents and include a note about the event in the school newsletter. Teachers also send reminders through a classroom newsletter. To help answer questions during Parent Visit Night, staff should coordinate volunteers who can be available.

As Community Montessori uses a variety of materials in their teaching, other schools should consider what activities they can involve students and parents in, such as games to support math, reading, or writing. Planning a Parent Visit Night as a game night makes it fun for everyone.