

Family Meeting Tips

Use family meetings for ...

- planning holidays;
- organising chores;
- dealing with issues;
- organising weekends;
- discussing family finance; or ...
- just talking, sharing & keeping everyone up to date.

1. Run them weekly, fortnightly or monthly – at your discretion.
2. Pick a convenient time when everyone can be there.
3. Pick a setting without distractions – no TV, phones or visitors.
4. Have an agenda – let anyone put items on it during the week; review items for relevance before meeting (but only those who added items, can delete them, if they are no longer relevant).
5. Set a time limit – 10 to 30 mins in total & allocate time for each item.
6. Agree upon meeting rules ... eg: one at a time, equal time, everyone must have their say, no hostile comments, no abuse, no arguing.
7. Rotate meeting jobs such as chairman, recorder, timekeeper.
8. Stop the meeting if there are 2 hostile comments or rule violations & either remove the offender, or relocate the meeting... & there must be a consequence.
9. Arrange a fun family activity to follow the meeting, but only for those who attended.
10. Anyone who Refuses to attend a meeting must understand that such refusal actually means that they are willing to be bound by all decisions made at that meeting!