I really appreciate the Parent & Family Advocacy and Support Training offered through Book Babies. It was such a great experience and wonderful opportunity that was low level of effort for my family.

I was able to learn a few concepts such as how to advocate for my child, communicate with teachers, navigate through public schools, understand school testing, and how to read a school report card. I was also able to set goals and tasks throughout the training, which supplemented the concepts learned in each session.

The facilitator was amazing. She was very knowledgeable and provided many resources. She was also personable and helped with a couple of questions outside of what we were discussing.

I highly recommend this training, especially if you have children who will be entering the school system soon. Book Babies made it very easy by offering free childcare, and dinner for each session. As a result of this training, I will be checking into other classes that are offered through Durham County Cooperative Extension.

~ Taquoia Street, 2018 Book Babies Mom
Hi, my name is Yesenia C. Mother to three kids; the youngest is part of Book Babies. I received an invitation to participate in a marvelous training, which has brought many satisfactions in such a short time and has been a great help. We call it PFAST. What is it about? The training has a lot of information for parents and is very educational. I learned about:

- Schools
- Resource centers for parents
- Community programs
- How to have a satisfactory teacher/parent meeting

among other topics, which is the reason I am writing to you all. Because the good things should be shared, and this is something that could help us all as parents. It is not only for women. Fathers, your participation would be wonderful and a contribution to your child’s education.

I had the opportunity to put this training into practice during a meeting with my son’s teachers and counselor. They were overjoyed that I came prepared with questions. Although my son has been attending that school for 3 years now, this is the first meeting where I felt prepared and knew what to ask. The staff congratulated me for being the first Latina mom to go into a meeting so well prepared. They asked me what had happened and why the change? I was proud to see the results from the training because I had not only gone to learn, but I helped as a co-facilitator, which helped me understand and I got the opportunity to share the training with others. My son’s counselor was interested in learning more about PFAST, and I was able to connect her with our PFAST trainer.

For me this was a big opportunity because what I most want is that we are prepared and that we have an understanding among us. I have had a great change in mind and have learned to listen to constructive criticism. There is still a lot to do, and I invite you all to be part of this change. Let us take advantage of these opportunities. It feels wonderful to receive an invitation to talk before a group of people who want to listen to you, and it is wonderful getting to learn together.

Being on the other side, not as a participant but as a co-facilitator, you learn even more. You relive the topics and make them your own. I had the opportunity to share with others and listen to different opinions. Depending on the case and our own experiences, we learn to read test scores, or we may learn something as simple as good communication between parents and teachers... something that may be very different than what we are accustomed to. THANK YOU BOOK BABIES AND PFAST. Let’s keep learning!

~ Yesenia Carlon Gonzalez, 2021 Book Babies Mom