

Kids First: Parents Insight Into their Child's Literary Development

Community Objective

To organize and operate an evening workshop devoted to sharing with parents ways they can become involved in their child's literary development.

Background

Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children. One of the most effective ways to encourage a child's emerging literacy and to support growing reading skills is by reading aloud. The students at Morgantown High School provided a workshop to enable parents to become more active in their children's literary development. The evening workshop was offered three different times, providing an opportunity for all parents to attend. The books purchased from the Newbery and Caldecott Book List were recommended and available for parents to peruse. A reading specialist was brought in to inform parents of the research being done in the area of literary development.

Challenged Student Conditions

- ~Academically challenged students can be service providers in our program if we (1) include them in the planning (2) invite them to be a part of the program, and (3) provide adequate training on our goals.
- ~Physically challenged students can be service providers in our program if we ensure that the physical facilities at the site are handicap accessible.

Resources

- ~Parents who wish to be involved in their children's literary development.
- ~A senior citizen, an adult, or student volunteer to coordinate the workshops .
- ~A reading specialist who is familiar with the latest techniques in literary development.
- ~Community libraries and librarians.
- ~Funding of books and materials.

Timeline of Service Activities

WEST VIRGINIA'S
SERVICE-LEARNING LESSON-PLANS
FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

February-

- May ~Secure funding of materials to be purchased.
- ~Make plans to work with local libraries to set dates for workshops.

March ~Design flyers advertising the program.

April ~Develop a preparatory training session to share materials and ideas for the service project.

May ~Prepare and publish a book list as well as guidelines for reading with children.

September ~Begin workshops.

Reflection

- ~Parents will keep a journal of each time they read with their child, noting any improvements in interest in reading.
- ~Parents will note the kind of materials children enjoy.
- ~The students leading the workshops will communicate with the parents through writing, e-mailing, phoning, or otherwise successfully communicating the direct influence reading aloud has had on their child.

Celebration

- ~Prepare bulletin boards of libraries with book choices.
- ~A special evening program (with refreshments) is planned for parents, their children, and the service providers.
- ~Certificates will be presented to both participating parents and children.

Academic Objectives

WV IGOs

Language Arts

- ~Properly follow a specific set of instructions (10.30).
- ~Demonstrate use of reading strategies necessary for various reading purposes (11.25).
- ~Use correct grammar when speaking and writing (PW.9).
- ~Perform effectively in both leadership and non-leadership roles (PW.16).
- ~Stay with an assignment or task to completion (PW.34).
- ~Demonstrate self-motivation (PW.35).

Contact Information

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