RFHF: Celebrating our Success: Cohort 7
Coos and Curry Counties

- I did a RFHF session with local firefighters in the firehall –what fun!
- We integrated the RFHF session on vocabulary into a pizza lesson at an Even Start parent meeting
- We have been conducting weekly parent education sessions doing an interactive literacy activity with one skill per month since January
- We trained child care providers in the early literacy materials- they loved the resources and asked for more training
- We had a “super collaboration” for 6 weeks of story time and a lesson with a school district and Even Start and are now adding Healthy Start. Even Start staff, parenting program staff, Healthy Start staff, the Library, and the Madison school are already planning for next year: 6 nights of parent education sessions, open to all in the community, one skill per night, with the school providing the food and child care- this is a totally new thing for the school to do this!
- A two-year old who had gone to one story time looked at the book to be read at a second story time and, recognizing the book, proudly announced “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom”.
- We blended RFHF into the program “Making Parenting a Pleasure”.
- The city gave the library $2,000 on top of $1,000 Ready to Read money- they did this again for a second year- now we are going to expect this for this year and use it for a new informational coffee time for families at the library.
- I worked with a family who could not read- they had a 2 month old child- I gave a presentation on print motivation and gave them a free book- the man then took his girlfriend on a “date” to the library and they got library cards and she checked out three books, 1 for them and 2 for the baby.
- The Healthy Start program is new and has only been working with families for 5 months and we already have 17 families and are motivated, excited and organized to use the RFHF materials
- With shifting priorities, my Storytime was moved to the hallway in a community center- after my fun and exciting story time was over I looked up to see a hallway full of senior citizens who had come over from the food program to listen to the story
• We hosted a “literacy walk” and walked to the library and pointed out words we saw along the way: “print awareness”. At the walk, one mom was asked by another “oh, you’re taking your children to the library?” and having been on one previous literacy walk the mom said proudly, “YES, WE’VE BEEN BEFORE!”

• We have plans to pick different community meals and attach a story time to them.

• A young boy who had been a faithful Storytime participant was disappointed that he had to start to go to school for kindergarten and couldn’t just go to the library.

• A young boy who started first grad with no story time and no preschool experience came to the library one day, sad, with head down, he was saddened by being unable to read like the other kids- the librarian said “we can fix that!” and through a group effort had him reading at grade level in three months. He still comes to the library but never with his head down. His father later came to the library to thank whoever taught his boy to read and starting coming to the library more often himself.

• We are in a resource poor area- no Head Start-no Healthy start- no parenting program- we are it and we are going to have a pajama party for our first RFHF program.

• All 25 of our families are getting RFHF sessions due to the hard work and determination of one staff member who has been an inspiration to other staff.

• We are amazed at the willingness of the community to be involved in the summer reading program and will work to include early literacy in those activities.

• A parent with 2 children who had a lot on her mind came to a story time. We started out with Mother Goose Rhymes and talked about the message “we rhyme in order to read”- the mom was surprised but I could see from the expression on her face that she got the message- oh yeah!!

• I never had much enthusiasm for finger puppets or flannel board stories until I took the RFHF training and learned why this was important. Now I use them with a lot more imagination and enthusiasm! I love the information we received and I love the connection with others- RFHF has been a great experience!