

RFHF: Celebrating our Success: Cohort 8

Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, and Lake Counties

I always have books in a bag when I visit families. Now, I can leave a book with the families.

Thanks to all the RFHF participants. It is so nice to hear how you are connecting with each other.

I am inspired to go the extra length and reach families I would be serving if we had a Healthy Start. We don't have a Healthy Start and we started up a great creative baby shower for moms of new babies.

A young mother who is addicted and a good mom when not using, is very into books. Her child was having nightmares and being afraid to go to bed. The mom was frustrated. I used "Go Away Big Green Monster" book and the kid loved it. I was able to leave the book with the family. It helped.

I was presenting at a teacher's in-service. A half hour turned into an hour and a half and the teacher's were excited. They wanted to do the whole thing with parents.

This project is well funded and first class all the way.

At a home visit with a Spanish speaking mom I used an interpreter. I was thankful for the Spanish books. The two year old loves books, they have a house full of books, and the little girl says "Mommy, sit on the couch and read to me."

Working with a developmentally delayed mom with a little girl. The TV is always on. I noticed the little girl liked Elmo on Sesame Street so I took them an "Elmo" book and was able to give it to the mom.

I focused on bringing parents into the library. The staff were wonderful. One mom got a library card and has gone back to the library. The parents understand what the library can do for their children. It helps the whole family.

A teen mom was sending books along with her baby when the baby went to visit dad for the weekend. They were teasing her about the books. She sent the information about early literacy, in Spanish, to the dad and he is now reading to the baby.

I was able to give a partnered presentation. Success!

It is great to see co-workers, peers and teachers reach into the community to disseminate the early literacy information. We have the heart and desire and we will watch it grow.

Through a series of serendipitous events, we were able to make a great new partner on the Warm Springs reservation and provide boxes of books as well as great t-shirts.

We held a reading Storytime in the park.

I told the Storytime parents that we were going to have 15 minute presentations (instead of crafts) after the next three Storytimes. We had 15 folks come each time and the preparation I did for the presentations helped me answer all of their questions.

Working with Head Start in Redmond with 2 families. When I explained dialogic reading, one of the moms lit up and can't wait to do it with her son.

I was working with 4 families and gave a one hour interactive program. One of the moms was scared and reluctant but after being encouraged to stay she had a big grin and said "I can do this! This is fun! Another mom comes back with questions for her 2 year old.

I presented to a mom's group, a baby group. Also presented at 2 festivals. I met new moms and told them about the early literacy calendar and story time.

Tonight I have my first session with four families, all Spanish speaking.

As a trainer, it is great to see how this is passing throughout the state. I see how the work of 6 years ago is coming to fruition. 2 groups of people, librarians and Healthy Start, working with different populations, and both with a passion for children and early literacy. It is truly making a difference.

I held a parent session after story time. I was actually amazed by how much information they got out of it. They were asking questions, and passing the information on to others.

These RFHF training sessions have been a great success, lots of good information. It has helped me learn more about Healthy Start in the community.

I conducted a home visit with two moms in one house. We watched the Success Starts with Reading DVD. The outcome was pretty wonderful; we talked about their 6 month and 4 month olds and also had a discussion about dads and books.

There are daily successes. Giving and sharing books got me excited. In working with teen parents we made books with photos of their own children and they wrote their own stories. They love the books they made. It feels like my own passion is infectious.

Success is hearing from participating staff that they are using the wonderful resources.

Success is getting families to meet me at the library. One huge event for one mom was renewing her library card.

I have been working with 35 families! One mom loved me reading the storybooks and asked me to "Come home with me to be our storyteller".

I went to Sisters in the fall and worked with a local community advocate to do 6 weeks of early literacy trainings.

Every day is a success. We bought more books so they can insert pictures of their babies. One mom was so surprised when I took out the touch and feel book and her five month old baby was totally engrossed with it.

The success has been these RFHF workshops. They have motivated me to do things. They have given me the tools. They have connected me with Healthy Start. We are going to do it!

I am excited about these RFHF workshops. They give me ideas for books. They make a difference on the job and give me more purpose. It has been a huge eye opener for me- there are six skills that can get kids ready and change their whole lives, future generations, and everything! My director has me going everywhere- teacher's club, Head Start, on the radio, at the library!