

Parent Assistant Evaluation Discussion

(facilitated by Dr. Jo Ann Karr, Reading Evaluation Specialist)

Jo Ann Karr: Did you feel the parents were doing a lot of self reading, or mostly with their children?

Sally Johnson: With their children. They were not reading for themselves much.

Jo Ann Karr: They were interested in getting literacy for their children..

Sally Johnson: ..and not as much for themselves.

Jo Ann Karr: Did they mention the Friday Club?

Sally Johnson: They thought the Friday Club was great. It probably helped some of them get jobs. The parts about interviews, how to do (them) and how to dress.

Elizabeth Landerholm: What do you think they liked best about the program?

Edna Kerrison: The time that they did have to come up here to be able to participate, with the child one on one, being able to sit down, focus and read with them, or having them (children) read to them (parents.) Some of them felt that having that quality time helped them get closer to their child.

I told them that we have a suggestion box, anytime they want to give any suggestions, they should feel free to put it in that box.

Elizabeth Landerholm: Well we can put the suggestion box out more prominently.

Lynn Gamble: “The parents really enjoyed the Field Trips. Most of them do not have the opportunity or a car to get to those places.

They are starting to get bored with some of the arts and crafts activities. Some of the parents have been here two or three years and we need some new activities. The new parents, they love it all, because they have never done it before. We have to find something for those parents who are phasing out.

Jo Ann Karr: I notice the same thing with the computer stations. At first parents are just content with going to the computer station and doing anything, after a while they ask “Do you have any more programs?”

Lynn Gamble: The kids like the messy stuff, the glue, the glitter, the paint.

Jo Ann Karr: Suggests a book club, like Oprah.

Edna Kerrison: I think that would be a good idea. It gives the parent the opportunity to comprehend what they learned by reading that story. .. each input will be great, you know.

Jo Ann Karr: Some of them said the only books they read were the children’s books.

Lynn Gamble: Yea, that was it. I participated in a writing workshop last summer. What happened is that there were a lot of parents reading to children, but no one was writing to children. The only time they ever saw their mother write something was when she wrote down the grocery list, the report card, or a note to their teacher. That was it. They put all the adult’s names and put them into a hat and all the children’s names and put it in a hat, and the one you pulled out was your pen pal. An adult pulled a kid’s name out and a kid pulled an adult’s name out. Once a week you wrote your pen pal a letter. How are you doing? And after a while those letters got longer and longer.

Elizabeth Landerholm: Did you really mail them?

Lynn Gamble: Yea, you mailed them. You mailed to your pen pal.

Elizabeth Landerholm: **I was thinking, if we had a book club once a month for parents.**

Edna Kerrison: That would be a good idea.

Heather I think we need to be more consistent about giving the prizes. When we were giving them out they read more books. It's a great motivator.

Jo Ann Karr: What about the parent child interaction during the reading process, did you see that changing over the year?

Heather Yea, you'll see some of the book reports are more thorough. And their opinions are in their writing. And you see the kids are actually writing it, not the parents doing it for them. And the pictures they draw of events in the story have more detail.

Edna Kerrison: My daughter has been in the program for three years. This year she won a trophy. She read 274 books. Even Start played a big part for her, because the books that she read in Even Start, she would put it down. So that really helped.

Sally Johnson: **We are reading more. They are just beginning to learn how. And my children want me to read more to them. It's almost every night.**



Links to Literacy is a school wide program where you make a link for each book read, and the chains are put up in all the hallways. One of the Even Start children won the top trophy for most books read because she combined her Even Start books with the ones she read at home for a HUGE number of books over 200!

Kids are writing more on book reports. We are using new forms this year to provide variety. They are used to the format of coming in and reading and writing.

