

KETTERING EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT PROGRAM INTERIM REPORT

Due Date 12/31/2007

Please update us on your project. If there is an activity that you'd like to share with us, please let us know. We'd love to visit your classroom and see your project in action!

Name: Amanda Hawker

Project Title: School to Home with Books

School: Greenmont Elementary

What is the goal of your project?

The goal of School to Home with Books is to improve students' fluency, comprehension, and DIBELS scores.

What strategies are you using to achieve this goal?

To achieve the goal of improved fluency and comprehension, students are asked to read and reread the text to become familiar with the words. To aid in the understanding of the text, students are encouraged to use the pictures as a resource, ask questions, and retell the story as a follow up activity. The follow up activities also encourage students to practice the skills they use while reading, such as, phoneme segmentation, reading sight words, recognizing beginning sounds, and distinguishing between letters and words in print. These skills will help the students achieve improved scores on the DIBELS Assessment.

What success and difficulties have you had so far?

The biggest success so far is that the students are excited about reading and ask every morning if they get to choose a new book! Most students have been very diligent in returning their reading folders every Monday and Wednesday to choose a new book and activity. For the few students who have difficulty returning their folders, they have been able to read during the school day with an adult helper. My goal was to assess the students on their reading level using DRA once a quarter, but found it difficult to complete this goal. The students were assessed in October, when the program began, and will not be assessed again until the end of the second quarter in January. Depending on the outcome of each student's assessment, some students may be asked to choose a different level of book. After returning from Winter Break, students will also be assessed using DIBELS and I expect to see improved scores from the September assessment. Overall, students have been doing a wonderful job independently choosing books and checking them out. Occasionally, students forget to put their book's index card into the labeled pocket chart and need a reminder to do so. By putting the index card in the pocket chart, I know who has which book at all times. Students also forget an activity card on occasion. Although these are minor difficulties, there is always room for improvement and as I continue to use this program next year, I plan on adjusting the checkout process as needed.

Has anything happened either positive or negative? Describe.

School to Home with Books has been a positive program so far. In October and November alone, the students read a total of 174 books with their families! I am very pleased that the students are reading at home and excited about taking a self-selected book home. During the fall parent/teacher conferences, I asked the parents how the program was going for their child, and I received all positive remarks. Parents commented how their children were being challenged while reading and completing the activities. I was able to supply the families with suggestions on how to modify the activities, to continue to challenge their child without having him/her become

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frustrated (there seems to be a fine line in Kindergarten between being challenged and frustrated). Parents left the conferences empowered with suggestions to continue the program at home to best fit their child's needs.

When do you expect to complete this project?

I expect to continue this project through the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year. The last week for students to borrow books from the classroom will be the week of May 20, 2008. The last two weeks will allow time for students to return the books before summer break as well as time to complete an inventory of the books.

Modifications to the original "Project Description"

Since the initial application to receive the KEF Grant, I have modified a couple of areas to best organize, manage, and communicate with families. The modifications are listed below:

- ~ Students check out books for the project on Mondays and Wednesdays, rather than just one time per week.
- ~ Each student keeps their book, reading log, directions, and activity card in a folder rather than a Ziploc bag. Ziploc bags are only used for activities that include manipulatives.
- ~ Students will be assessed using the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) three times during the year; October, January, and May. Students will be assessed in March on an as needed basis.

Financial Information

Amount of grant \$941.40 Total Expense to date \$666.59 Balance Remaining \$274.81

Signature Amanda Hawker Date December 29, 2008

Students are choosing books from the color coded leveled book baskets.

