

Family Literacy Programs & Perspectives

Presented by:

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of West Michigan


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**Schools of Hope
Family Literacy Program**

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN
LITERACY CENTER OF WEST MICHIGAN,
GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND
HEART OF WEST MICHIGAN UNITED WAY


Program Vision

To make a difference in the lives of families by increasing the capacity of parents to support their children, to increase a child's chance of success in learning, and to increase the capacity of parents to compete more effectively in the workplace.



Rationale:

- The foreign-born population in West Michigan has increased substantially in the last decade
- Twenty-one percent of the adult population in Grand Rapids reads or speaks at a low literacy level.
- If English is not spoken at home, this can have a direct impact on the academic success of a child in school.
- In addition to the academic benefits for the child, improving parents' English skills will also improve their employment opportunities and self-sufficiency.




*www.education.org

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Program Model

- National Center for Family Literacy
- Four Components:
 - Adult Education
 - Children's Education
 - Parent Time
 - Parent and Child Together Time (PACT)




Program Purpose

- Develop skills that impact job readiness, employability, and greater self-sufficiency.
- Equip and instruct parents to impact success of children in school



Typical Week for Parents

- ✓ ESL or Literacy Classes (4 hours)
- ✓ Parenting Discussion (1 hour)
- ✓ Parent and Child Together Time (PACT) (1 hour)
- ✓ Monthly Family Literacy Event (2 hours a month)



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Program Status

- First school was Harrison Park Elementary in January 2009
 - 20 parents signed up for the program and completed at least 40 hours of instruction
- Program expanded to Sibley Elementary and Congress Elementary in Fall 2009
- Program components are currently being piloted at 3 Hispanic churches
 - Train the trainer model

Family Literacy Nights

- Parents and Children come together to read, learn and have fun!
- Expand on what is being learned in the classroom
 - Discuss new ideas for reading activities at home
 - Parents and children work on projects and bond through reading together



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Measurements

- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) tests will be given at the beginning, middle and end of the school year.
- Employability
 - CASAS score will determine when parent will be ready to take WorkKeys test to obtain career readiness certificate
- Literacy of child
- Family literacy activities


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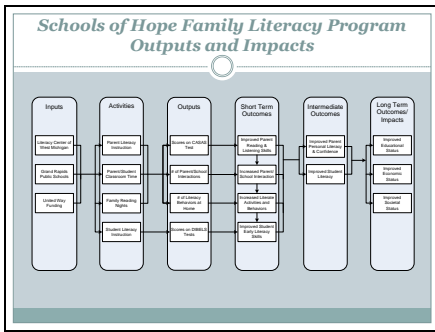
Outcomes

Parents



Children





Questions?
