

OLA SSD 2022: Wilsonville Library & Coffee Creek Head Start



Started with a grant in 2008.
Now supported by the Library Foundation.



Partners since 2008

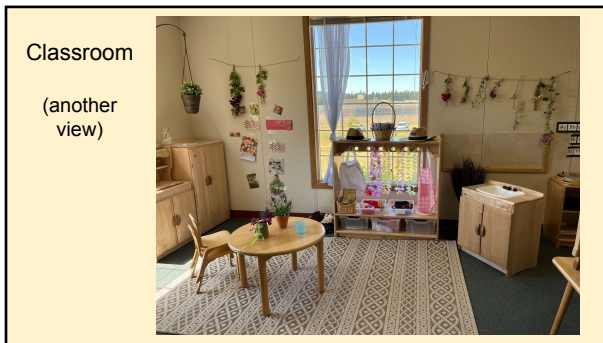


Building is on Coffee Creek campus, near Minimum Security
Up to 8 moms can participate at a time
Used to be Early Head Start; now Head Start: so, kids 0-5
Family advocates work with moms and external caregivers to set it up
Kids come Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-12
Supported parenting; circle time; play time inside and out; lunch together
1:00 moms' support - trainers, debrief with teachers, peer support, etc.
Attendance can be intermittent: caregivers, treatment, parole, etc.

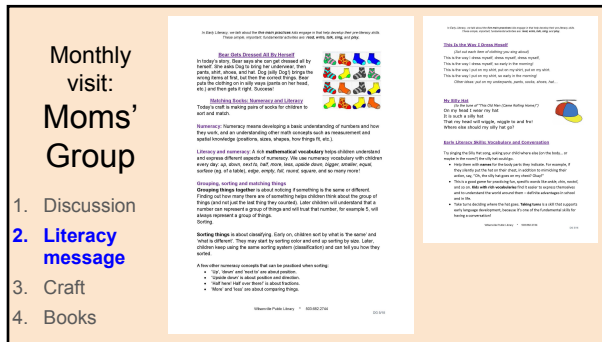


Monthly circle time visits
Check with lead teacher beforehand re: number, ages, and developmental levels of participants; any themes
It's usually all ages (0-5)
Extra distractions!: in a novel space, seeing mom, new kids, all ages
Active stories, realia, rhymes and songs. Open and close with ukulele/guitar - creates some continuity

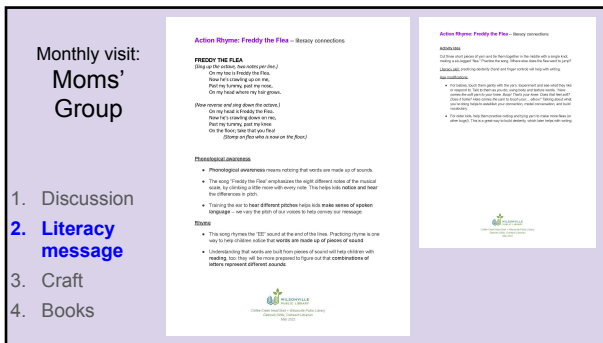




Moms' group: monthly family literacy discussion:
1-2 p.m.
No kids; moms have just finished cleaning up
Discussion:
- Debrief the circle time. Informal.
- Make developmental observations together



- I offer a literacy message related to the day's circle time.
- With handout (see example 1) they can add to their binders/cubbies (or send home with the families)
- The moms help me relate it to the day's circle time and their observations about their kids



Literacy message handout (example 2). Includes:
- Reminder/suggestion of activity
- Early literacy connections
- Adjustments for different age kids

Moms' group

Very Hungry Caterpillar puppet craft



Moms' group

Opportunities for personalization



Craft: a related craft activity that:

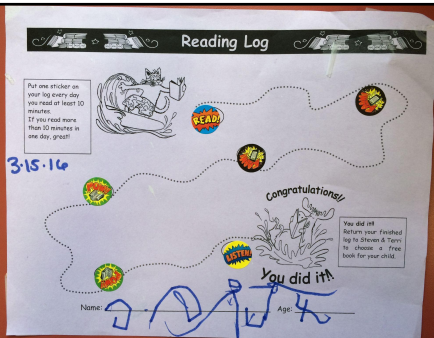
- Engages the moms - quick and accessible! (15 min)
- Allows the moms to play and relax
- Fosters an easy atmosphere for discussion
- Yields a literacy-supporting play tool they can use with their children
- Examples: shakers, shape games, rhyme booklets, puppets, and more...

Example parent message:

- Hungry Caterpillar has a very clear beginning, middle and end. That clear narrative structure helps kids follow the story and retell it.
- Helps develop narrative skills, which helps kids make sense of, and talk about, their own experiences.
- Related: routines (such as snack – brush teeth – then play, in Head Start) also help develop a sense of narrative.

Book support

1. Discussion
2. Literacy message
3. Craft
4. Books



Book support

1. Gift books
2. Library books



Gift books

Also happens during moms' group

2 books each month - "earned" by reading log & program participation

To help each family build a personal library of their very own (keep at Center; send home; keep till parole)

Funding - Once supported by a library grant and now gladly paid for by Wilsonville Library's own Library Foundation

Special events

Jamerry Picnic

Teddy Bear Picnic



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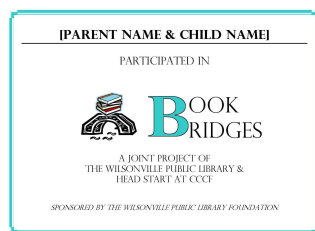


Jamerry Picnic/Mothers Day - pancakes, puppet show, playtime

Teddy Bear Picnic - we hire an early childhood music specialist to provide an interactive show

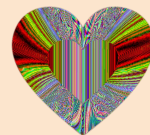
Graduation (Parole)

- Canvas book bag
- Letter of best wishes
- Certificate of completion
- Information on local libraries and storytimes



Our goals

- Family **literacy** support
- Increase participants' **comfort** and **confidence** sharing stories with their children
- Increase **access** to great picture books;
- Develop **positive associations** with libraries



Graduation: we provide a bag and sometimes attend (during Moms' group)

Sturdy canvas book bag

Letter of best wishes: we're so glad we got to meet you and that you and [name of child] participated in the Book Bridges program!

Certificate of completion of Book Bridges program

Info on libraries and storytimes wherever they're moving to



The library's goals in our partnership with the Head Start are to provide early literacy and family literacy support; to help increase participants' comfort and confidence in sharing songs, rhymes, stories, and language play with their children; to increase participants' access to high quality, age appropriate picture books; to help incarcerated mothers, their children, and their families develop positive associations with libraries and an understanding that libraries are available as a resource to them. We are committed to our partnership with the Coffee Creek Head Start, and value the chance to make such a focused impact on the lives of women who are building healthy family skills.

The delicious salad in the last slide can serve as a metaphor for our Head Start partnership:

Some of the moms who work in the facility's vegetable garden grew the vegetables for the salad (using new skills or skills they already had); prepared it; and served it themselves to their visiting families; and we all enjoyed the results of their efforts.

Deborah Gitlitz

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