

Mid-Michigan Library League

Weekly Update

June 4, 2008



The Importance of Family Literacy:

Family Literacy programs are designed to improve the language and literacy skills of both parents and children. The majority are designed for parents with preschool or early school-age children and aimed at improving children's school readiness and success, while simultaneously supporting the language/literacy development of parents. Most federal programs, such as Even Start, have adopted a specific definition for family literacy that addresses four program components. Most federally funded programs must include all four components:

1. **Early Childhood Education** programs for children that are age appropriate and help prepare children for success in school and life.
2. **Adult Education**, specifically, parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency.
3. **Parenting Education**, training that helps parents become teachers of their children and full partners in educational systems.
4. **Parent and Child Together (PACT)** programming that enhances the interaction of parents and their children around language and literacy.

Need for Literacy and Language Programs well documented.

- 1991 - in the Carnegie Foundation report, Ready to Learn: A mandate for the nation, teachers reported that 35% of kindergarten children were not ready for school. The area in which children were reported to be most lacking was in literacy and language skills (Boyer, 1991).
- 1998 - the Annie E. Casey Foundation reported that 39% of fourth-grade students scored below the basic reading level nationwide.
- Children for whom English is a second language are of particular concern because their numbers are increasing and they often have difficulty in school (Rossi & Stringfield, 1995).
- Studies show that children who start Kindergarten without basic language and literacy skills have difficulty learning to read, and they continue to experience reading problems throughout school (Snow, et al, 1998).
- Research on brain development helps explain why early home and child care experiences are critical to language development.
- By the time babies are a year and a half old, the bottom 10% will understand around 90 different words while the top 10% will understand more than 300 words.

- Research indicates that children who have books and other reading materials at home, as well as writing materials, do better than children who have none.
- Children who see their parents reading and writing do better than children who do not see such models.
- Children who have many opportunities to **talk** and **listen**, practice eyehand coordination activities that will help develop the foundation skills for **writing**, and "**read**" books," gain invaluable experience with language.
- Working with parents to enrich home environments, through family or intergenerational literacy programs, increases the chance that preschoolers will succeed once they reach school (Bus, van Ijzendoorn, & Pellegrini, 1995; Edwards, 1995; Edwards, Pleasants, & Franklin, 1999; Jordan, Snow, & Porche, 2000; Neuman, 1996; Whitehurst, et al., 1988.

The foundation for literacy skills is set during the preschool years, and it is during this time that young children develop the skills that will help them be successful (Chall, Jacobs, & Baldwin, 1990). Whereas it was once thought that children learned to speak and listen during their early years and later learned to read and write at school age, we now know that they develop literacy related abilities simultaneously from infancy. Emergent literacy is the term used to describe young children's developing literacy skills before formal schooling and encompasses the constellation of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills young children acquire (Teale & Sulzby, 1989). There is increasing interest in teaching parents how to help children build essential literacy skills (Nickse, 1989). Research has shown that parents can create supportive home literacy environments, express positive attitudes about literacy, and share literacy activities such as joint book reading (Arnold, Lonigan, Whitehurst & Epstein, 1994; DeBaryshe & Binder, 1994; Payne, Whitehurst, & Angell, 1994).

For the list of references and to read more visit:
<http://www.csipreads.org/PDF/importancefamilylit.pdf>

Celebrating Childhood Through the Magic of Puppets, Nature and Books!

A "Celebrating Childhood Through the Magic of Puppets, Nature and Books" workshop has been scheduled for September 12th. This is an innovative workshop exploring the various ways children can participate in a "nature and literacy-rich" environment using puppets, props, and presenting plays. Participants are shown how to use puppets, develop character personalities and effectively have children play with and use puppets. Puppets demonstrate their marvelous ability to have all listen, laugh, and learn from *them!* Joyce Davis, the Puppet Lady, will be presenting.

Workshop details:

September 12, 2008: Celebrating Childhood Through the Magic of Puppets, Nature and Books!: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Joyce Davis, Puppet Lady

Location: Cadillac Wexford Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/puppets.htm>

Current Number registered: 0

Innovative library discussion group idea:

The Helena Township Public Library is starting a global warming discussion group. They will be using a four week discussion course from the Northwest Earth Institute in Portland Oregon, *Global Warming: Changing CO2urse*. According to their library newsletter, “the course will help us understand the science of global warming, explore personal habits as they relate to climate change, and empower individuals to take action to curb global warming. There is more information available on the website: www.nwei.org.”

For more information contact the library: 231-331-4318

Member Library News:

Surrey Township Public Library has reached the essential level of QSAC and has obtained certification, congratulations!

February Statistics:

ILL:

Title Requests: 1121

Subject Requests: 10

DVD/CDs repaired: 14

Lever and a Fulcrum workshop:

On November 11th, Charlaine Ezell of the *Extra Edge* will be presenting the workshop, *A Lever and a Fulcrum*. This workshop will use a simulation developed to demonstrate how change happens in an organization, workshop participants working in pairs learn techniques to persuade as many people as possible to adopt an innovation –such as self-checkout machines, or laptop computers, or any new services.

Workshop details:

November 11, 2008: A Lever and a Fulcrum: 9:00 – 4:30

Presenter, Charlaine Ezell of the *Extra Edge*

Location: Cadillac Wexford Public Library

.6 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$25.00 per person Non-Member: \$35.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/leverfulcrum.htm>

Current Number registered: 0

Libraries and Job seekers:

The Library of Michigan is requesting that libraries help them identify resources and programs they make available to job seekers and any support they provide to MichiganWorks! centers by taking this very quick survey online at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=E_2b0qNxLNpKWW7Qutbt9yA_3d_3d

Summer Reading Program illustrator:

As you work with the collaborative summer reading program material (<http://www.csipreads.org/>), you may recognize the style of illustrations. The illustrator has illustrated several children’s books including *The Diary of a Worm*. To see his complete list of illustrated books visit: http://www.harrybliss.com/main_content.html

Read All About It:

First Lady, Laura Bush and Jenna Bush have written a book together, Read About It.

Book Description (from Amazon.com):

Tyrone rules the school!

He's king of the monkey bars, a math machine, and a science whiz.

The only thing he doesn't like about school is reading. Books are so boring! But when strange visitors start dropping by the classroom for story hour, Tyrone discovers there's more to books than just words on pages.

Tyrone and his friends are swept up in a mysterious adventure that lands them in a most unexpected place. Mrs. Laura Bush and her daughter Jenna create a classroom adventure that will leave readers racing to the shelves!

A portion of proceeds benefit Teach for America and The New Teacher Project.

ISBN-10: 0061560758

ISBN-13: 978-0061560750

MMLL Schedule and Upcoming Events:

June 12, 2008: Measuring Your Impact workshop: 10:00 – 5:00

Sponsored by Western Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine/Greater Midwest Region (NNLM/GMR)

Location: Traverse Area District Library

Cost: FREE

Registration: Chris Allen, 231- 935-9265 or callen@mhc.net

Flyer: <http://www.mml.org/workshops/measuringyourimpact.pdf>

August 14, 2008: Advisory Council Meeting: 10:00

August 28, 2008: MMLL Board of Trustees Meeting: 10:00

Joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and Advisory Council:

September 18, 2008: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Cadillac-Wexford Public Library

September 12, 2008: Celebrating Childhood Through the Magic of Puppets, Nature and Books!: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Joyce Davis, Puppet Lady

Location: Cadillac Wexford Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/puppets.htm>

Current Number registered: 0

October 7, 2008: Black Belt Librarian: 9:00 – 4:00

Presenter: Warren Graham, nationally renowned security, safety and customer service consultant recognized for his unique approach to personal and professional safety.

Location: Traverse Area District Library

.6 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$25.00 per person Non-Member: \$35.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/blackbeltlibrarians.htm>

Current Number registered: 7

October 15, 2008: Stress is a Laughing Matter: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Ben Spitzer, Comedian and corporate presenter

Location: Cadillac Wexford Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/stress.htm>

Video preview: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pOSjDTmgaQ>

Current Number registered: 7

November 5, 2008: MeL Databases Essentials Part A and B: 9:00 – 3:30

Location: Mid-Michigan Library League

.6 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: Coming soon

Current Number registered: 0

(Registration limited to 10)

November 11, 2008: A Lever and a Fulcrum: 9:00 – 4:30

Presenter, Charlene Ezell of the Extra Edge

Location: Cadillac Wexford Public Library

.6 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$25.00 per person Non-Member: \$35.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/leverfulcrum.htm>

Current Number registered: 0