

# FAMILY BOOKSHELF

## Steeple Run Elementary School Naperville, Illinois

A wealth of very informative professional reading materials are housed in the Steeple Run Elementary School Learning Resource Center (LRC). In an effort to assist families with parenting and child rearing skills, and to support students at each grade level, the Steeple Run Family Bookshelf was created during the 1998-99 school year. Approximately 40 books that focus on child development, literacy, and mathematics are part of the Family Bookshelf. Parents are welcome to visit the Family Bookshelf in the LRC to check out books through the computerized circulation system. For those parents who cannot come to the Family Bookshelf in the LRC, a book order and delivery system was created.

The LRC Director and a fourth grade teacher developed an annotated bibliography of all the books on the Family Bookshelf. A letter introducing the Family Bookshelf, and an order form to request a copy of the annotated bibliography, were sent home with each student in the school. A copy of the annotated bibliography and book order forms were sent home as requested. A parent who wanted to check out one of the books completed an order form and returned it to the LRC. The LRC Director and her assistant filled the book order, checked out the book to the parent through the computerized circulation system, and delivered the book to the child for him/her to take home. Books could be returned to the LRC by the child or parent. Materials can be checked out at any time for two weeks and can be renewed.

Within two weeks of the start of the program, 114 orders for the annotated bibliography were received. Book orders followed quickly and were filled as they arrived. Included with the book orders was a simple evaluation sheet. One of the open-ended questions asked parents if they would like additional information and LRC staff responded to the requests. Parents made the following comments about some of the books they borrowed:

- "I am going to buy this book to keep on hand and review with my kids."—*What Would You Do?*
- "It was a very interesting book. It taught me not to criticize."—*Spel is a Four-Letter Word*
- "I found this book to be a good resource as a parent and educator."—*Helping Your Child Succeed in School*

During the 1999-2000 school year, Steeple Run Elementary hopes to add more books and announce the Family Bookshelf in the school newsletter.

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