
BOOKS TO GO

Early Childhood Center #90

Buffalo, New York

At the Early Childhood Center #90, the Reading Action Team created Books to Go to increase students' reading skills. The purpose was:

- To increase parent awareness of the reading skills needed at each grade level;
- To improve student reading skills and test scores;
- To increase student interest in reading; and
- To increase the number of books that students have at home.

One of the teachers on the Reading Action Team started the Books to Go book cart with a donation of twenty dollars. Other members of the team collected gently used books and monetary donations for new books. After establishing the cart, volunteer staff visited each classroom once a week so that students could buy books. All books were priced at fifty cents regardless of the original purchase price. Proceeds benefited the Books to Go program.

The Reading Action Team sent a letter to teachers explaining Books to Go and requesting that they mention the program in all communications with parents. Parents also received a letter informing them about the developmental learning needs of early childhood, particularly the importance of reading to children. Parents were reminded of the benefits of having quality, level-appropriate books at home for children.

Improvements to Books to Go included adding a second cart. Now one cart serves grades PK and K, and one cart serves grades 1 and 2. Two carts can carry more diverse selections to target the children's interests and reading abilities. The Reading Action Team continues to seek other sources of donations. In the past, Books to Go has received donations from Lancaster High School students in Students Against Dunk Driving (SADD) and their Student Union.

Children and parents have increased their interest in books because of Books to Go. Children often choose to spend their ice cream money on books. As many as 150 books have been bought

and taken home by children in one week. Because of the great demand, the team had to limit purchases to two books per child per week. Records show that in the past two years, Books to Go has enriched students' homes with over 5,000 books.

Parette Walker, Action Team Chair

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