
WATERFORD COMPUTER USAGE FOR ESL PARENT CLASS

Glenwood Elementary School

Sun Valley, California

Glenwood Elementary serves about twenty parents in its English as Second Language (ESL) Parent Class. The class meets Monday through Thursday with the ESL instructor. Twice a week, the parents work on the Waterford Early Reading Program using computers. This instruction serves a dual purpose. First, parents practice and expand upon the skills they learn in class at their own pace. Second, parents find out what their children learn when they use the Waterford Early Reading Program. Using the computer reading program helps parents improve their English skills, and, most significantly, increases their understanding of the reading program their children use every day.

To start, classrooms with computers used for the Waterford Early Reading Program needed to be identified. Two classrooms with four computers each were available for use in the afternoon. Scheduling parent visits to the classrooms revolved around times students were not receiving instruction.

The Waterford Early Reading Program has three levels of competency. Parents try to achieve the highest level, but because of time constraints often do not reach this goal. Parents may continue the program next school year to complete the program.

Parents greatly appreciate the opportunity to use the computers during class time. The strategy supports their English language skills, and increases their understanding of what their children are learning. This shared experience enables parents to support their children's learning at home.

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