
FAMILY READING/MATH RESOURCE CENTER

Clara E. Westropp Fundamental Elementary School

Cleveland, Ohio

The Action Team for Partnerships at Clara E. Westropp created a family resource center to improve student literacy and math skills and help parents feel more comfortable working with their children at home.

The Action Team found space in the school library for the resource center. Teachers wrote proposals for funds to purchase reading and math materials. Resources included educational games, books, workbooks, flashcards, maps, and many other items, and a parent library of reading materials just for parents. Team members took an inventory of all resources and cataloged them. They organized the materials by grade level and activity for easy use. Instructions were developed for each activity, and a parent request form was designed. The team continually assessed the school's needs for reading and math support materials and the materials that were utilized with the most success. The Action Team conducted two workshops every month to train parents on the use of the materials. If parents could not attend the workshops, they received the information sent home with the next month's calendar.

The Family Liaison sent all families a letter announcing the opening of the Family Reading/Math Resource Center and describing its hours and borrowing procedures. Parents returned a tear-off permission slip for their children to use the resource center. Students visited the resource center during school hours to borrow materials of interest to them for use at home with family members. Parents completed request forms listing topics or skills for which they would like resources, and students could bring these items home. Parents and students were responsible for all materials borrowed and agreed to return them on Friday. Failure to return materials in good shape or on time resulted in a loss of borrowing privileges.

The cost of the Family Reading/Math Resource Center was approximately \$5,000. Grants received by teachers covered the cost. Parent and community volunteers offered their time to help run the resource center.

Students' reading and math scores on the state proficiency tests have increased. Students have demonstrated greater ownership of their learning. Parents have become more interested in their children's academic success. The number of school volunteers has increased. Parents who

could not come to the school building had access to important resources that they could use at home to help their children improve reading and math skills. These results indicate that the Family Reading/Math Resource Center performed an important function for Westropp students and families.

Cristina Miranda, Family Liaison

(216) 267-3706