
W.A.V.E. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Andrew J. Rickoff Elementary School*

Cleveland, Ohio

Literacy is Rickoff's focal point, as well as a safe school environment in which all children can learn.

Through a partnership with W.A.V.E. (Winning Against Violent Environments), the Academic Achievement Plan Committee planned parent literacy workshops that focused on non-violent activities for families. During the 14workshop series, parents were introduced to the Ohio Language Arts standards while participating in anger management activities that would help them help their children build conflict resolution skills while the students developed their reading and writing skills.

Members of the Action Team for Partnerships, families, students, and school staff participated in the W.A.V.E. activities. Each month, parents had the choice of a morning or evening workshop. Participants received a variety of books on conflict resolution and anger management. As part of the parent homework activity, parents were asked to report back to the group their child's responses to the books they read together as a family. Parents enhanced their literacy skills when guided to ask their children to draw conclusions, and compare and contrast the characters and their actions in the books. For those families that attended the evening workshops, *Amazing Grace* the Puppet helped students to act out scenes from the books and

work collaboratively on resolutions.

The Action Team faced the challenge of ensuring family participation. They increased attendance by giving students baskets of school supplies if their parents attended the workshops and by offering dinner and door prizes.

Students benefited from W.A.V.E. activities by improving their literacy skills, acquiring conflict resolution skills, and having a parent at home to read books with. One parent said that she was thankful for the program and that it allowed her to be an integral part of her daughter's education.

For the upcoming school year, the Action Team will create a committee to determine strategies to increase parent participation in the W.A.V.E. workshops. They will also set the schedule for the workshops at the beginning of the school year and recruit families during Open House to make the W.A.V.E. activities even more successful.

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*Anton Grdina Elementary School in Cleveland, OH has a parent book club based on a partnership with W.A.V.E. Their book club is similar to Rickoff's workshop series.