



The Family Outreach Program

The Family Outreach Program was born of our recognition that introducing preschool children to the joys of reading will help them to succeed later on, in school as well as life, by encouraging them to become lifelong readers and learners.

It teaches children to break the code of language, which is the first step to literacy. Children learn to differentiate sounds, words, and sentence structures, and how they fit together to make a story. They also learn to relate words to pictures.

In addition to learning about the components of language, reading to children teaches them about their world and their role in it. They learn how to listen, and to express thoughts and feelings verbally by talking about the story.

Appropriate content teaches them how they are the same as well as different from other people. It also teaches them moral lessons.

Just as important, it can transport both the reader and child to another time and place. When the reader is able to become one with the story, and with the mind of a child hearing the story, it is an exciting experience for both.

Finally, by sharing your love of language and literature with children, you show them that they are important and valued companions on this journey into the magical world of books.

Because it has proven to be such a rewarding experience for our volunteers, as well as the children, the Family Outreach Program has been one of Literacy Volunteers most successful.

Volunteers currently read to children at Fremont St. and Winchester Day Nurseries. They typically read once a week for about half an hour, including related activities.

Feedback for the program has been very positive. The nursery staff and children tell us they love the program and look forward to it.

In addition to reading to the children, Literacy Volunteers-Winchester Area donates birthday and Christmas books to each child. Nursery staff reports that without this program, some of these children would never see books in their home.

Training Requirements: Orientation

Time Commitment: ½ hour per week