



Survey Data Reveals: Both Teachers and Families Recognize the Need to Motivate Students to Read for Fun

Based on data revealed in their School Community Index report, both parents and teachers recognized the need for students to become more motivated to read. So Ledge Street Elementary school in Nashua, NH planned a family reading night that focused on literacy.

Several families opted to participate in the School Community Network's Interactive Reading workshop which equips parents to inspire their children to read for fun. One exercise demonstrated how parents could interject questions and comments into the reading of any story to build anticipation and interest during reading time. Another exercise challenged parents to build a story each parent adding to the story as they went around the room. In doing this, parents learned the importance of stimulating the child's imagination and the importance of using words to express what the imagination sees. The importance of listening was also exemplified as parents were paired and instructed to listen to each other for two minutes without interrupting.

To ensure that all parents attending the event gained full benefit, a Spanish-speaking translator was provided and activities were planned for the students so that parents could focus on the content of the program. School staff expressed that there is a critical point at which children no longer learn to read, but read to learn, and it's important that parents understand this and work with their children to build good reading skills.

As the evening concluded, parents and students were directed to tables where family members could browse a selection of books and take something home to read. The school's Adequate Yearly Progress facilitator said that the school has had family pizza night in the past but adding the academic component made the evening even more purposeful.

Brindley, M. (2009, March 13). Program Training Parents to Read with Children. *The Nashua Telegraph*

School Community Network Resource Spotlight



Building Block: Education

Resource: Parent Workshops – Interactive Reading

Schools that train families to reinforce school learning at home find that students are more motivated to learn. The School Community Network's Resource Library offers a complete Family Learning Series which includes an interactive reading workshop for families with primary grade children. In this workshop, families discover tips and techniques that inspire reading for fun and support student success during out-of-school times.

The **School Community Network's Family Engagement Tool (FET)** is an online family engagement program developed by the Academic Development Institute and is part of the suite of services offered through the School Community Network. The Building Blocks referenced are the framework components common to School Community Network programs, and the resources described are available to subscribers of any of the School Community Network programs. For more information visit our website, www.schoolcommunitynetwork.org.