

Take it to 'em: early literacy programs out to the community.

Joyce Hedlund, Outreach Storyteller
Marie Pyko, Public Services Director
Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

Outreach Storytelling at TSCPL



Program began in 1990 with two part time staff as outreach.

The initial goal was to model to providers effective ways to interact with children through a storytime or circle time.

Visits

- ▶ Five part-time storytellers visit 79 daycares and preschools monthly for children 3-5 years of age.
- ▶ Each storyteller is on the road almost 4 days/week
- ▶ Reach over 3700 children each month.



How to get started

- ▶ Staff that are good at sharing stories.
- ▶ Identify daycares and preschools in your community
- ▶ Check with KDHE for paperwork needed (TB test and KBI)
- ▶ Create a service form with expectations for sites and of sites
- ▶ Library vehicle or pay for mileage
- ▶ Props and music- (Ipod)
- ▶ FUN!!!!



Storyteller essentials

- ▶ Stories around a theme
- ▶ Props and flannel boards
- ▶ Beginning and ending song
- ▶ And most Important...
 - ▶ BOOMER



Early learning elements- school readiness

- ▶ Narrative skills
- ▶ Vocabulary skill building
- ▶ Letters and shapes
- ▶ Colors and numbers
- ▶ Concentration and taking turns



Boomer Bear became the mascot and signaled to children that it was storytime no matter who the storyteller was.



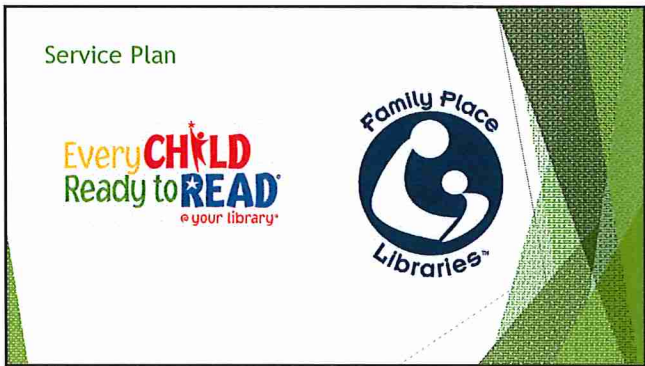
At the end of storytime children were left with a "Boomer" sticker to give parents a clue that a library program was provided at their child's center.

Learn and Play Bus

Ensure all children enter school ready







Priorities- School Ready indicators

- ▶ Early Identification & Intervention
- ▶ Behavioral Readiness
- ▶ Social Skills
- ▶ Fine Motor Skills
- ▶ Vocabulary



Where to go- gaps



- ▶ Wait lists for Head Start
- ▶ 2016-2017 school year
 - ▶ Went full day which meant that half as many children are in Head Start.

Staff



- ▶ Sherry Hess- Early Childhood Learning Coordinator
 - ▶ Former Parents as Teachers coordinator
 - ▶ Has he CDL
- ▶ Aileen Finney, Kathy Ellison and Kyler Carpenter

What will happen on the bus

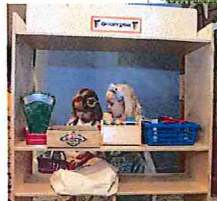
- ▶ Weekly Curriculum
- ▶ Story or Circle time
- ▶ Unstructured play
- ▶ Art, block play, learning toys



But most especially- books, bonding...



and Play



Community Partners

- ▶ Hearing and Vision Screenings
- ▶ Share resources with parents
- ▶ Field questions from caregivers and staff
- ▶ Lead activities even circle times
- ▶ Promote our new service
- ▶ Washburn early learning practicum students





Learn and Play Bus