

WEXFORD-MISSAUKEE ISD

Parent Education initiatives:

- We provide trainings for professionals which are aimed at teaching parents to promote literacy in their home, such as the Playful Literacy training. This training was offered to preschool teachers and in home parent educators. This same group has had an overview of the Michigan Literacy Progress profile (MLLP). We are also using and promoting the “Family Fundamentals” as a part of the MLLP program, which is the Parent Involvement and Homework piece of the MLLP. We also provide guidance to teachers and parents of gifted and talented students, including preschoolers.
- We coordinate the ASAP-PIE grant which provides in home parent education to the parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. We use the “Parents as Teachers” curriculum which has been shown to promote school readiness, including pre-literacy skills. With the assistance of the Public Enrichment Foundation, we have distributed hundreds of books to families and included a half page on the “how” and “why” of reading to very young children. Through these home visitors and the many community events available, such as the booklets “Put Reading First,” “Creating a Reader,” and the locally developed “Guide to Brain Research and Brain Development.”
- We are involved in promoting and co-sponsoring many of the Love and Logic parent trainings offered in the community. This is generally offered as a series although occasionally one time overviews are offered as well. We provide national speakers focused on parenting including bringing Jim Fay in this April to speak to parents, arranging for Barbara Coloroso to speak to parents, and a local speaker on “40 Developmental Assets for Children.” We co-sponsor the annual “Celebrating Families” event which provides a variety of workshops for parents.
- We have almost 400 families on our mailing list for our locally developed “First Steps” newsletter, which provides parents with developmental information and resources for families with children birth to five years. This same group of parents, as well as another 58 families, receives our monthly calendar filled with parent education opportunities, library reading hours, playgroups, etc.
- Among the many play groups promoted through our calendar, some funded with ASAP-PIE funds, *Early On* provides a monthly DADS group which offers stimulating activities and informal education and support to any male and their young children. *Early On* also offers a weekly group for parents focused on informal education and support.
- The *Early On* ICC had made some effort to specifically promote the idea of reading to your children for 20 minutes a day. All of the above for collaborative efforts which include the involvement of local schools or agencies as well as the ISD.

We will continue to do all of the things listed above except that when the ASAP-PIE grant ends, by June 30, 2004, in-home parent education will probably not be offered except to parents who qualify for part B or part C of IDEA. Finally, a collaborative group from the *Early On* ICC will be meeting in June to begin a process of developing specific community goals for early childhood.

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