



Early Literacy – Navajo County Library

“I have developed a wonderful relationship with the young children and staff of NAOMI House in Joseph City. There is a great need there for help with early literacy for the infant through 3-year-old age group, and as this quarter closes I have increased my visits from twice-monthly to once-weekly in order to accommodate this need.

1. Describe collaboration efforts that have been undertaken or are continuing during the reporting period. Describe the nature of the collaborative effort and who potential or current partners are in the effort. Briefly describe anticipated results of the collaboration.

a) I have been working with Deborah Lewis, an FTF “Healthy Steps” grantee. We have been discussing ways to combine our outreach efforts, and have visited one site together. Deborah and I are also brainstorming ways to help each other gain access to venues that are presently unique to one or the other of us. This would hopefully increase our ability to serve the needs of more children and their families in terms of both healthcare and literacy.

b) I have also been talking with Juanita Waits, University of Arizona’s Cooperative Extension Director for Navajo County (and an FTF grantee) about ways we might combine early literacy help for parents/caregivers with the nutrition classes that are beginning to be offered in Navajo County. We are hopeful that more families might attend sessions that offer a varied experience.”

Healthy Steps

“We are now visiting the Safe House once a week and modeling with parents on topics such as how to enjoy and play with their children. We have planned weekly activities to encourage the parents and children to become more engaged with one another. Gaining trust is a primary objective and in pursuit of this goal we have discovered that modeling is a good means to this end. By modeling we involve both parents and children in a variety of activities and situations and pave the way for trust to develop because once trust is established parents/children will be more open and receptive to different ideas and solutions.

Since the Naomi House now has eight children under the age of three and we are working with the caregivers to help in the following areas:

- Safety in the home and on the playground
- Nutritional meals
- Good oral hygiene
- Importance of reading
- Review the different developmental stages
- Teachable moments

One humorous story was shared with us by a mother whose son had been given books during their well visits at the North Country clinic. Parents had gotten together to watch the Super Bowl and during a lull in the game these parents looked around and noticed all the grandchildren were sitting in one part of the room. Every grandchild except for one had their ROR books and was looking through them quietly. A parent reported that the parents all started laughing with joy when they saw their children engrossed in their books and sharing them with each other. Thanks Healthy Steps!

Not all our successes are as immediate or as dramatic as this one we recently experienced, but we try very hard for this type of positive outcome. A lady with a three and half year old daughter confided during a well visit that she was very concerned about her child's development and felt that her child was struggling to learn the ABC's. Time was taken to reassure the mother and resource material was given to the parent along with suggestions that could be used to help her child learn the sounds of the ABC's. The mother promised to follow the suggestions and two weeks later called to tell us that her little girl had improved dramatically and that she could not believe the progress her daughter had made within the two weeks she had started working with her."

Oral Health

"During this quarter, 2 children were identified as needing to see the dentist ASAP. Through a follow-up phone call to parents of one of the Urgents, Navajo County Oral Health Program was able to confirm that 1 child had a scheduled appointment with a pediatric dentist. The other Urgent was found late in March and will be followed in the next quarter.

Of the 210 children screened this quarter, 2 were over 6 years old (no varnish was applied) and 50 were seen for a 2nd time and 19 a 3rd time and 141 children were seen for the first time.

For the FY NCPHSD has completed 536 1st time screens, 183 2nd screens and 28 3rd time screens for a total of 746 oral health screens. There have been a total of 731 varnish applications."

Nutrition Education:

"Apache: Our major success story is the collaboration with and classes at the Springerville Head Start. We attended the parent meeting prior to the start of the Eating Right is Basic Classes and had 8 parents express interest and sign-up for the class. At the first meeting we had 16 parents attend, at the last meeting we had 26.

(Navajo)We're in the beginning stages of developing our program. However, parents have expressed appreciation and excitement for the nutrition education offered"