



First Things First Preschool Expansion

**Bullhead Elementary
Preschool Program**

Letters, numbers, and words are everywhere



Our Goal=Ready Children

- Socially
- Physically
- Independent
- Self-confident
- Literacy focusing on vocabulary , letter knowledge and phonemic awareness
- Little Scientists
- Math
- Art and music

Choice Time



Building with BIG blocks



I can write



Dramatic Play

- Play is the work of children.
- Dramatic play, with teacher facilitators, builds vocabulary and is the start of bridging the vocabulary gap that low income children experience when starting kindergarten.
- Dramatic play changes monthly with problem solving situations presented weekly. A store might experience shortages due to a city event such as a regatta or a gas station might have a gas shortage. These events provide opportunities to problem solve and introduce new vocabulary.
- Let's take a look at some of our amazing dramatic play throughout the year.

Vet Clinic Checking in the Pet



Down on the Farm



Weather Station



Doctor's Office



Flower Shop



Pizza Palace



Home Depot comes to help them learn to build



Construction Dramatic Play



Family Literacy Nights

- Once a month we hold family literacy nights. Parents are supported as the teacher of the child. All family members are welcome as are neighbors with young children.
- Literacy “bytes” of information are given at each station. Parents are taught how to “play” with their child while building academic skills.
- Parents also use the time to connect with other parents of young children.
- Children are given take home books to build a home library. At this time we are making the books
- Our model has been copied and implemented by a First Things First grant in the Phoenix area and another ERF grant in New Mexico.

Entomology Lab at Family Literacy Nights



Cooking



Parent Support of Learning



Thanks to FTF we are ready for kindergarten



Comments by Parents

- 8-3-12 Father calls into the program." My daughter was in the preschool last year. We went to kindergarten orientation and she knows all her letters and letter sounds, she can count to one hundred forwards and backwards, she knows much of what they had listed. She loves school and I know she will be successful. I want that for my son also."
- 5-12 One father bringing another father to register his son for the program. Overheard in the office. "You have to do this. It is a great program. My son has learned so much and he loves school. It is important for you to do this for your son."

Thanks to First Things First

- 20 children attended preschool who would not without the support
- 4 attended a community partner day care as stipulated in the grant
- 19 of the children attended the program full day/full year program. All 19 knew all the names of the upper and lower case letters. They also knew 17 or more of the sounds. Several have started to read and write. They also know all their shapes, colors and numbers to ten or more. The child who came as a result of a move in February, knew 19 letters and 14 sounds. The best predictor we have in preschool of how a child will do by third grade is the number of letters they know going into kindergarten.

The Future

- Thanks to First Things First and the braiding of funds, we were able to add 23 more slots this year by providing aide support in existing district preschool classrooms.
- 43 children will be receiving a five day a week, full day program in integrated programs with the same high quality curriculum and staff.
- Three teachers are Early Childhood Special Education certified. Two teachers are Early Childhood Education certified. Three teachers have their Master's Degree, two their Bachelors. Nine instructional aides work in the 5 classrooms. Professional Development is provided at the start of the year and throughout the year to both teachers and aides.

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- It Looks Much Brighter
Due to FTF