

COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

October 2013 La Paz/Mohave



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Summary of Activities (September – October FY14)

Events:

Preschool and Activities Expo hosted by Lake Havasu MOMS Group; Saturday, Sept. 21 (potential for partnership).
 Havasu Community Health Fair; Sat., Oct 5.
 Kingman Women's Health Fair; Sat., Oct. 19.
 Havasu Fall Fun Fair; Sat., Oct. 19.
 Fort Mojave Indian Days Celebration; Sat., Oct. 19.

Presentations:

LHC Democratic Association (given by Regional Director Beckett); Wed., Sept. 11.
 Kingman Grandparent Support Meeting; Wed., Oct. 2.

Media Hits:

"Programs offer assistance with children's dental care need," Kingman Daily Miner, Sept. 27.
 "Love of Literacy: Head Start students read their way through national campaign," Today's News Herald, Oct. 5.
 "Topock's Preschool Delivers 'Profound' Change in Readiness," Arizona School Boards Association newsletter, Summer 2013.
 Topock preschool profiled in FTF FY13 State Annual Report.

Tribal Regions:

Craft activities at Hualapai Indian Days Cultural Resources Fair at Peach Springs Elementary School Tues., Sept. 25.
 Community Discussions involving Hualapai Tribe social service agencies (ongoing).
 Colorado River Indian Tribes Indian Days FTF info booth, Oct. 3—5.

Upcoming opportunities:

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Cultural Awareness Conference Nov. 5-6 at Avi Hotel and Casino; includes roundtable discussion of river tribes-social service agencies at 9 a.m., Wed., Nov. 6.
 Media on Wenden Elementary School Preschool.
 Early Childhood Every Day Training; Grantee Coordination meeting, Tues., Nov. 12.

FTF Core Message of the Month

Critical skills like:

Motivation

Self-discipline

Focus

& Self-esteem

begin to take root from birth to five years old.

Use this message to demonstrate how Early Childhood impacts a child's future performance in the workplace or school. Successful people share these traits and we want our kids to be successful!

Love Of Literacy

by Kim Burgess, Today's News Herald, Lake Havasu City



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Head Start centers across Mohave County joined a national celebration of literacy Thursday, participating in a campaign that mobilized adults and kids to set a record for the largest shared reading experience.

Over 2 million people across the country united Oct. 3 to read the children's book "Otis" by Loren Long as part of Jumpstart's Read for the Record, which highlights the need for quality kindergarten preparedness. The program began in 2006 with "The Little Engine That Could" and since then has involved 9 million children and raised more than \$8 million for early education programs.



At Lake Havasu Head Start, First Things First La Paz/Mohave Regional Director Merritt Beckett shared Otis' story of a calf and tractor's friendship with 11 kids during the morning session. Fire safety educator Kathy Black visited the afternoon class.

"I felt that what was special about this event was inviting community members to be part of that early childhood program for that day — we know that kids need strong support from the community," said Beckett said, whose organization's mission focuses on educating kids up to age 5. "It's important that we read and talk often with babies and little kids, not only to help them develop language, and the ability to communicate, and to prepare them for success in school, but also to help them develop habits that will enrich their lives."

Jamie Dykstra, manager at Lake Havasu Head Start, said that she was thrilled to have local leaders connect with Head Start and share a love of literacy. Next year she hopes to have more community members visit, with each reading the selected book to a small group of kids.

Statistics show that all children benefit from reading, but those from low-income backgrounds generally don't get enough exposure to books and typically enter kindergarten 60 percent behind their more affluent peers. In the Mohave region, 28 percent of young children live in poverty and 72 percent do not attend preschool.



www.readyazkids.com

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