



Highlights of the Hoopoe Books 2005 Early Literacy Pilot Program

In an effort to assess the impact of the Hoopoe Literacy Program on children, parents, and teachers, an independent evaluator, Kathleen Mazor, EdD, developed a set of questionnaires for participating teachers and parents. Responses have been overwhelmingly positive. Dr. Mazor's findings include:

Hoopoe Books Early Literacy Materials

For children -

- Two children's **books** that encourage an enjoyment and appreciation of stories and reading, and facilitate cognitive and socio-emotional development.
- Both were **available in English and Spanish**
- Both of these books had **accompanying CDs** to encourage independent and family reading.

For parents and families -

- 2 early literacy **Newsletters** were developed, tailored to each book. Newsletters provide parents with information and suggestions for **encouraging reading and literacy**.

For early childhood teachers -

- Two Early Literacy Curriculum kits were developed for use with two of the Hoopoe titles. These kits provide teachers with information on literacy as well as recommendations for group activities with young students.
- Workshops for Early Childhood Educators were developed and implemented to train teachers in specific teaching methods designed to help students prepare to read, to enjoy and appreciate stories, and encourage cognitive and socio-emotional development.

Distribution

As of March 2006, ISHK's Share Literacy Program distributed almost **70 Early Literacy Curriculum kits**. Approximately **60 early childhood teachers have participated in workshops** where they received training in encouraging literacy in young children and in using the Hoopoe materials most effectively. **Over 700 students received Home Literacy Kits** of their own, including their own copy of the book, an accompanying CD, and the corresponding Newsletter.

Evaluation Highlights

In an effort to assess the impact of the Hoopoe Literacy Program on children, parents, and teachers, LRA developed and administered questionnaires for participating teachers and parents. Responses have been overwhelmingly positive.

Home literacy kits

Over 300 parents (from Washington, DC, and Ashland, Ohio) provided anonymous ratings of one or both Home Literacy Kits.

- The **vast majority of parents would recommend the home literacy kits** to other parents (98% of the parents rating Lion and 93% of the parents rating Farmer's Wife).

- **Almost all parents (99%) read the books together with their child** at least once, and most read the books together more than once.
- Approximately 75% of the parents felt that the home **literacy kit helped them feel more involved in their child's learning.**

Early Literacy Curriculum

Over 40 teachers from the two sites provided anonymous evaluations of the Early Literacy Curriculum for Lion, Farmer's Wife, or both.

- Teachers were **unanimous** in their belief that the Hoopoe ELC **helped students learn new vocabulary.**
- A **strong majority** felt that the curriculum also helped their students to become **more interested in stories and reading** (85% for Lion; 68% Farmer's Wife).
- **Most teachers would recommend the ELC to other teachers** (83% would recommend the Lion curriculum, 71% would recommend the Farmer's Wife curriculum).
- **Most teachers would recommend the Home Literacy Kits to parents** (95% would recommend the Lion HLK; 88% would recommend the Farmer's Wife HLK).

Curriculum Workshops for Early Childhood Educators

A total of 59 teachers from two settings completed anonymous evaluations of the workshops; responses were overwhelmingly positive.

- 80% **rated both the instructors and the materials** as "**excellent.**" Only one teacher rated any component of either workshop less than "**good.**"

The Hoopoe Program evaluations have been analyzed by Dr. Kathleen Mazor.

Dr. Kathleen Mazor is an experienced researcher and program evaluator. She is currently Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where she conducts research in medical education, patient education, and physician-patient communication. Dr. Mazor is trained as a psychometrician, and regularly leads faculty workshops in questionnaire development and survey research. Dr. Mazor previously served as the Director of the Research and Evaluation Division of the Office of Medical Education at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Prior to joining the medical school, Dr. Mazor gained clinical experience working with children and special-needs adults in her role as a school psychologist and later as a behavioral psychologist. She brings expertise in program evaluation, measurement and research methods. Dr. Mazor received her Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She also holds a Master of Science degree in psychology from Eastern Washington University.