

Mini Grant Summary Report

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Date: 5/28/09

Division: SSS

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Project Title: Zap the Gap: Resourcing
Reading Proficiency in
Struggling ESL Readers

Project Code: For Office Use Only

Results Narrative (Describe what you had hoped to have achieved, what you did achieve, any challenges, and what you might do differently next time)

My goal was to select engaging new instructional materials to update the resources in the ESL lending library housed in SSS. After receiving input from the other ESL teachers and two literacy experts, I purchased inexpensive content-rich books so that our students would learn literacy skills along with social studies, science, and math. We now have 106 new books for Beginning and Intermediate readers in Grades K-12, greatly needed as the number of ESL staff has doubled in size in 2008-9. My project was overly ambitious, with unexpected delays in collecting student data and other steps. (I wished I had used 2007 data instead of waiting on 2008 data.) The new materials arrived in late March, on the eve of reviewing and testing time for the NYS ESL Achievement Test. Although the teachers are enthusiastic about the new books, we have just started using them. This project has led to discussions about using effective strategies for teaching reading and coordinating our future purchases.

Results Data (Present any data collected through the project)

Itinerant ESL teachers work with 62 Beginning and Intermediate ESL students for the Capital Region BOCES (see Attachment A for more details). The mini-grant purchased 96 books from National Geographic and Scholastic (see Attachment B and receipts for details). National Geographic provided 10 free sample books (see Attachment C).

How was the project disseminated?

I updated my colleagues at ESL staff meetings. At the March meeting, I presented the new collection of books. We discussed the importance of teaching content and vocabulary in context. I distributed an evaluation form to solicit feedback from the teachers and students. As we have just started to use the books, I did not write a district newsletter or ask our Communication contact to publicize this project.

Please show an accounting of the expenditures.

National Geographic books - \$587.94 (includes freight)

Attachment A
 “Zap the Gap” Reading Mini-grant – Beginning and Intermediate Reading and Writing
 ESL Students
 (number of students by grade)

Grade	Number of students	Number of Male/Female	Number of Beginner/Intermediate
K	7 (incl. 1 K-1 Special Ed)	4 M/3 F	7 Beg
1	22	13M/9F	8 Beg/14 Int
2	6	4 M/2 F	2 Beg/4 Int
3	4	2 M/2 F	4 Beg
4	7	5 M/2 F	5 Beg./2 Int
5	2	1 M/1 F	2 Beg
6	3	1 M/2 F	3 Beg
7	3	3 M	2 Beg/1 Int
8	0	--	--
9	5	3 M/2 F	5 Beg
10	1	1 M	1 Int
11	1	1 F	1 Beg
12	1	1 M	1 Beg

Totals of Beginning and Intermediate LEP Readers:

Level	Total number of students	Number of Male/Female	Number of Beginner/Intermediate
Elementary (K-5)	48	29 M/19 F	28 Beg/20 Int
Middle (6-8)	6	4 M/2 F	5 Beg/1 Int
High (9-12)	8	5 M/3 F	7 Beg/1 Int
All (K-12)	62	38 M/24 F	40 Beg/22 Int

Attachment B
“Zap the Gap” Purchased Books for Struggling Readers (Beginning and Intermediate LEP Students)

Added to the BOCES ESL Teachers Library, funded by a 2008 Capital Region BOCES Mini-Grant

Titles for K-2 (6 copies for each title)

1. Chick Life Cycle – Elizabeth Bennett. Scholastic.
2. Who took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar? Illus. Viviana Garofoli. Scholastic.
3. The Park – National Geographic.
4. We Keep Fit – National Geographic.
5. On the Move – National Geographic.
6. Little Monkeys – National Geographic.
7. The Four Seasons – National Geographic.
8. What Do Pets Need? – National Geographic.
9. What’s on the Road? – National Geographic.
10. Flags – National Geographic.
11. Seeds Grow into Plants – National Geographic.
12. Using Your Senses in School – National Geographic.

Titles for 3-12 (6 copies for each title from National Geographic’s Language, Literacy & Vocabulary series)

1. Columbus and America
2. Road to Revolution
3. Go West
4. The Civil War (with a teacher’s set that includes transparencies and a CD)

Attachment C
Inventory for “Zap the Gap” Mini-Grant (Free Samples)

Free samples received for the ESL Teachers’ Library from National Geographic/Hampton-Brown, February 2009:

1. Edge: Reading, Writing & Language, David W. Moore, et. al. Accompanied by “Edge: Best Practices & Research Base” (Adolescent Literacy).

2. Inside: Language Literacy, and Content, David W. Moore, et. al. Accompanied by “Inside: Best Practices and Research Base.”

3. ConceptLinks: Literacy and Language through Content - 4 titles (1 copy each) by Kate Boehm Jerome:

a) Animals: Adaptations

b) Animals: Classification

c) Animals: Surviving Change

d) Animals: Traits and Habitats

4. Language, Literacy & Vocabulary - 4 titles (1 copy each):

a) Declaring Independence – Lesley J. MacDonald

b) Producing Goods – Charlie Walker

c) Then and Now – Jenny Lee

d) Women Work for Change – Susan E. Goodman