

Literacy Roundtable Subcommittee: Early Childhood (0-5)

Members:
Phyllis Ford- Chm.
Ann Oplinger
Carolyn Trammell

The Early Childhood Subcommittee has met once. We drafted action plans for this group. We want to publicize the National Week of the Young Child (WOYC), which is being sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) April 19-25, 2009. This year's theme is so timely for Charleston County: "Bringing communities together for Children, Children bring communities together!" As the following quote reflects, NAEYC emphasizes the importance of Early Literacy, a focus of the Literacy Roundtable.

"Developing early reading skills is crucial to children's success in school. Children who enter school with larger vocabularies start school ahead of children who have not been exposed to enriched language environments. Reach out and help children get the early literacy foundation they need to succeed in school."

The EventPlanningHandbook.doc—which can be downloaded on the website www.naeyc.org/about/pdf/WOYC —contains valuable suggestions for Early Childhood Programs including:

- 1) **Create a family story time.** Invite families to participate in your story time and other reading activities. Some parents, grandparents, or other family members may enjoy reading or telling stories to a group. Others might become a reading partner to a child in the classroom, while some parents may prefer to chaperone a field trip to the library.
- 2) **Hold a kick-off breakfast for family and community reading partners.** Photograph children with their reading partners (preferably someone who can read with the child more than once a week). Then post the pictures on a sheet of paper. Ask the child-adult partners to write their comments about the books they read under their picture throughout the week.
- 3) **Ask businesses or other community partners to help fund a project to create story theme bags with books, games, and suggested family activities to do at home.** Plan a kick-off event during Week of the Young Child to demonstrate how the bags can be used and to recognize business and other community partners.
- 4) **Have children write or dictate their opinions of classroom books and rate them with stars.** Tally the results and post the chart in the classroom. Publish in your parent newsletter a list of the five-star books along with a few student reviews.

- 5) **Organize a Children's Book Festival to celebrate reading.**
Children and families can dress as their favorite book characters. Businesses or organizations might provide free books to children or families can participate in a book swap. Local celebrities or public officials can read stories and theater groups can perform puppet shows or skit.

For more information call the chair person of the sub-committee, Phyllis Ford at 937-6563 or email suggestion to her at Phyllis_Ford@charleston.k12.sc.us.