

The CIDSO News

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"A Brighter Tomorrow"

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CIDSO Literacy Program

Submitted by Cindy Spain, CIDSO Education Coordinator

The literacy program which takes place at ISU consists of seven participants, fourteen student volunteers in the field of special education, teacher mentors assigned to the volunteers, and one coordinator who over-see this program. The participants are working on a variety of skills. One is learning Power Point. Another has demonstrated progress in the dollar over concept, a practical money skill. Scrapbooking is also an activity of choice. For yet another, the focus has been on math and spelling as well as reading comprehension. Sometimes the participants have homework. Many are keeping a journal and most have learned about using e-mail. They practice by e-mailing their tutors each week.

The parents have been supportive. Attendance has been very good. The participants are on task and remain actively engaged during each session. There will be a total of thirteen meeting times in all. The coordinator, Kelli Appel, stated that the participants really enjoy being a part of ISU and the literacy program helps give the teacher candidates some incredible insights and experiences.

Kelli asked the volunteers what they feel is the best part of the program and what they have learned from this experience. Here are some of their comments:

Best part of the program

"Using class knowledge for real life."

"Learning how incredible people with Down syndrome are."

"Getting to know the participants personality."

"Getting the adults back into a learning environment."

"Being amazed by the participants skills".

What they have learned

"Working together with an aspiring teacher."

"Gaining one-to-one teaching experience."

"Learning how to teach different styles."

"Working with adults instead of children."

"Thinking on the spot."

"Gained experience and comfort with teaching individuals with disabilities."

"Adapting plans when someone doesn't understand."

"Reading comprehension techniques."

"Patience!"

The participants have benefited from this literacy program by being given the opportunity to maintain and expand their academic skills on a college campus where they have interactions with ISU students. The tutors benefit as well. They are learning

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Literacy Program

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how to look for resources and plan activities, as well as how to interact with individuals with Down syndrome. They have all expressed how much fun they are having. Many have said they would like to return for the next session in the fall.

The literacy program is a dream come true for some. It has definitely been a success. CIDSO and ISU would like to continue to work together in order to enhance the lives of the young adults with Down syndrome in our community. On April 21 the literacy program will be offering new perspective parent/students an opportunity to observe the program from 7 to 7:30 at the Fair child Hall Lounge. After the observation time there will be an opportunity to meet with Kelli Appel (the director) and ask questions.



Inching AlongPaw Paw's Perspective

When asked to write about *Inching Along* I considered how I would cover the many inches that my loved one has moved in his four years. I wondered how to explain the feelings of his parents as they inch through the awareness of their son's extra chromosome; their acceptance of the tremendous responsibility of raising a child and the obvious joy in that responsibility. I realize now that I have inched along as well with the help of my wonderful grandson. From the moment my daughter told me about his special condition, my knowledge about DS increased as I strived to gain some understanding of what to expect. We as a population want to control destiny by planning months, years and decades in advance. I now realize that I am learning to plan in different terms. What used to seem small now can be a rather big event; crawling, walking, and saying "Paw Paw". ("Paw Paw" actually comes out as "Upaw", but what a beautiful sound it is.) So used to getting everything in leaps and bounds, I am learning, a process where accomplishments are sometimes not measurable in terms how far we might have gone, but how much fun it is to inch along .

A Note of Thanks

Dear CIDSO Families,

I can't thank you enough for all the wonderful support you gave me at the time of my mothers death. The cards, phone calls, visits, ice cream, flowers, and so much more, deeply touched our family. The floral arrangement sent to the funeral home was beautiful and exactly the flowers my mother loved. What a comfort it is to have such wonderful friends at my side during this time of sorrow. On behalf of Dan, Christy, April, Karl and Myself,... Thank you.....Thank you....Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Jean Bates

Mark the Date:

April 21:
Literacy Program Meeting

April 22:
Bowling with CEC

June 5 & 6:
Gala and Golf Tournament

July 11-13:
NDSC Conference

September 27:
Buddy Walk

Disclaimer Policy

The editor of this newsletter writes as a non-professional. CIDSO does not promote any therapy, treatment, institution or professional system, etc. Please discuss specific concerns with your health care professional.