

Ready! Set! School! Project

Focus Group Report

Group L—Session 3: 6/1/2006

This final session with each group was designed as a report-out by the parents after spending approximately one month with the RSS products.

Each parent was first asked to give the product a letter grade. Each of the five participants graded Ready Set School with an “A” primarily do to usefulness of the material and organization. Each parent was then encouraged to report about her general impressions of the product.

Rocio: Let’s read. She likes that activity. I liked “I can do it myself.” Sometimes we are afraid to let our children try many new things. This gave her a chance to do things for herself.

Kristina: We really liked “I’m a VIP.” She liked talking about the things she liked and I really liked telling her the things I liked about her. The activity in which she drew pictures and labeled her drawers wasn’t very interested to her. But now that the labels are up, they seem to be working.

Misty: The ABC activity didn’t work so well. We kind of wrote her name down but she didn’t want to decorate it. She likes to point out letters on a sign, but on paper she wasn’t that interested. She did like the playtime and the telephone talk. Her daughter is just barely three. Mom is not very structured in learning approach.

Bonnie: The one we really liked the “My feelings” activity. She didn’t like the I know Me activity. She’s good in informal situations, but she didn’t like it in a formal setting.

Leslie: It’s hard to get her daughter to do all the activities because her daughter is in pre-school and has done a lot of the material before. She used the cards more than the DVD. She looked at the internet, but she didn’t use it was learning the lessons.

Her daughter made a nameplate for the ABC activity. She used it in the real world. Experiential learning based on the concepts in the cards. Feelings activity and tasting foods were also used in church lessons. She liked the cross use. Her daughter is very shy. She didn’t like the handshaking activity. Telephone talk was hard for her. She wouldn’t talk into a cup. She did call her grand mother on the phone. Her best activity was I’m a VIP. She liked the shapes activity. They talked about the muscles as she was doing normal activities.

Rocio used the DVD. She liked it because she had a difficult time to understand what to do after reading the card. But after watching the DVD it was easier.

Misty looked at the website to get familiar with it, but she didn't use it.

Rocio used the internet for the Spanish version to teach her friend who doesn't speak English. The translation was very well done and correct.

Suggestions for improvements:

Make print outs or cut out visual aids available for certain activities, such as happy/sad faces for the My Feelings activity.

Under the Let's Read activity, you could include some additional teaching tips.

How would you promote this to others? One mom told her brother in California about it. She talked about the organization and the kindergarten guidelines.

Another parent really liked the guidelines. "Is she ready for kindergarten? Does she need to know her ABCs? This is a great guideline.

Rocio tells her friends that they don't need to go to a lot of places to teach their children. It's all in one book.

One parent realized her child was ready for activities that she didn't think her daughter was ready for yet.

Summary

This group of parents really liked the activities very much. Most of them used the cards because they were convenient, however one parent used the DVD.

The first time parents and/or the parents of children in the young end of the demographic (3 years) showed the most excitement about the activities and got the most from the products. However, the parents of older children got use out of the activities and enjoyed using the product also.

There were a few individual parents and children who didn't like or get much use out of individual activities. However, these seem to be related individual taste or development level and did not appear to be a trend.

The overall reaction was very positive.