

Ready! Set! School! Project

Focus Group Report

Group R—Session 3: 5/31/2006

Introduction

This group of parents are in a relatively rural area of Utah. They skew toward slightly less education and less money than either of the Wasatch Front groups. There are more children from this group in Head Start, although some are in private day care and pre-school, while others stay at home. Not as many parents in this group have regular access to the internet.

Comments about Ready Set School

I have a hard time getting my child to pay attention to me and sit still. We had a hard time with a lot of the activities, but that was mostly him.

Most of the activities were pretty well interrelated. Most of the activities were easy for my son. He's almost six.

It made me actually sit down and look at the activities. There was a lot of connection to the activities available here at the resource center.

It was great that it helped us spend time together and helped my think up extension ideas.

I was really impressed. A lot of the activities were similar to things I'm already doing. But the activities are really good that they help parents spend time with kids.

It helped me realized I was pushing him too hard.

Some of the activities were quite challenging for him.

One mom used both the DVD and the cards. The DVD held the child's attention, even though it was intended for the parents.

One parent in this group used the internet and got good use out of the extensions.

There's more information on the internet site.

The telephone activity worked very well for one child. The made cardboard cutouts of the dialing pad to practice.

The obstacle course worked well for one child, but the ABCs didn't work well for the child who just barely turned three.

Some parents chose not to do certain activities after reading the cards and realizing that the activity was too elementary for the child.

The reading list reminded one mom of a book that helped her calm down her child and work through and tantrum.

The V.I.P. activity worked well for one child.

One mom wishes she had known about the labeling activity when her 14 year old was younger.

One mom liked labeling and the song activities, but not the numbers activity.

Grocery list worked well. Her son loved cutting. The ABC activity worked okay, but he only stuck with it for about five minutes.

The labeling activity took a long time for one mom. The mom did a lot of work on that one.

First time moms learned a lot they hadn't know before. Some moms knew more than others.

I wish I'd known about these activities when my 7-year-old was that age. I knew to teach her numbers and letters, but this offers so much more.

Summary

The responses were fairly similar to the urban group who had reported a week earlier. Those parents who have older children within the demographic got less from the activities than those who had younger children within the targeted group. However, all parents and children enjoyed the product.

Once again the cards were the medium of choice because of convenience. The internet is a barrier still to some parents, especially in rural Utah. In some cases it is slow internet. In other cases it is no internet.

Once again, one parent said she watched DVD segments with her visual-learning child, who liked the DVD.