

## **Ready! Set! School! Project**

### **Focus Group Report**

#### **Group U—Session 3: 5/23/2006**

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 encouraged to report about their general impressions of the product.

Phoenix: “I had to remind myself to do these activities because I am a very busy parent, as I’m sure we all are.” Her daughter liked the role-playing activity. For the most part, however, it was more fun than educational because her daughter is five years old and a bit advanced for most of the activities. “So for her it was just a fun playtime. I don’t think there was a lot gained, but I know there are a wide range of children doing these activities.” She explained that a lot of these things are done in a pre-school environment and that it would be really helpful for those people who don’t have that exposure.

Jackey: We tried to fit them in wherever we could and she has been enjoying them. For somebody whose child is not in school this is a very good tool.

Jennifer: I fell on the other end of it. Though he’s three, developmentally he’s two. So I was trying to make the activities work for him even though many of them were over his head because he has autism. She got on the website to look for resources for parents with children with special needs, but the guidelines were fairly general. I don’t know how to teach him. There were a few comments on the web, but it’s still new. I want to see on the web family activities that are geared to his abilities.

Michelle: This was great. I see that I play to his strengths. No wonder this kid is so verbal. This has helped in two ways. It’s helpful for me to see I have to do some of the other things. The kindergarten connection is good. I just think it’s a great resource. Across the gamut. I liked the card.

Lindsay: I’ve really noticed improvement with his ability to sit still and concentrate. He calls them his school activities. He loved it. I was so happy with it. I find him cutting up my magazines now.

Elise: I did it with three kids. They liked everything but the introduce yourself activity. I became aware of teaching moments.

Heather: Also became aware of teaching moments. She was able to look over activities and know which one’s he could do now.

Michelle: Jacob is almost 5, but he enjoyed the activities. He did not like the role play. She liked the cards. The “I can do it myself” activity was a great confidence booster. Many parents chimed in approval of that activity.

Sarah: Her son is three. It was wonderful. It’s her first child and she had no idea of what she should be doing. Labeling the drawers with pictures was great. It has helped her with laundry and house cleaning. The shopping list was also great. It was the first time at the grocery store that he didn’t have a tantrum. She used the cards because of easy access, but she would have used the DVD or the internet more if those were the easiest options.

\_\_\_\_\_ Her daughter is four. She did some activities in the car. She needs a simple prompt card to carry with her. The cards were the best.

It will be great to have it for all the children as they get to that age.

Jackey watched the DVD with her child. Lily liked the DVD. Watching other children do the activities was inspiring to her child.

Michelle’s son Anthony is very outgoing and he would walk up to adults and introduce himself.

Many parents couldn’t finish all the activities in the 30 days, but it’s nice to know they are available when the time is right.

This will be great when the parents are familiar with the activities and the children grow into it.

The telephone activity was great. Learning the phone etiquette was big for the boy with autism.

Anthony loved the obstacle course inside our house one day when it was raining. I never would have thought of that in a million years.

The extension ideas were great.

Rhyming game was a great vocabulary builder.

The Rhyming did not work as well for other children.

I can do it and ABCs worked well.

Just in case did not work for one parent. Her son thought it would be fun for the house to burn down. I don’t know how to make it more serious.

A list of books, more complete on the cards. One parent pointed out that the larger list is on the web site.

It was easy to expand on the lessons. She wanted to take things a step further. “If you don’t really know how to teach your child, this is very helpful.”

### **Summary**

This group of parents really liked the activities very much. Most of them used the cards because they were convenient, however many parents saw the benefit in the other formats.

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.