



Communities 4 Families

Grant Report

Date: May 2015

Organization: Day Nursery Centre

What is the name of activity for which the grant was used?

Rock and Read
Growing Up Green

Describe your program and its success

Rock and Read Programs - These programs always started with a nutritious supper and discussions around meals and food choices. After supper the children and parents gathered in a group to sing songs and read stories. After this portion of the evening the children went with the child minders while the parents stayed with the facilitators to create personal books for their children. It was wonderful to see the parents look forward to attending and, to not only have a nutritious meal with their own family, but to find opportunities to connect with other parents and share experiences and ideas.

Growing up Green - This program was run similar to the Rock and Read Program. Having a meal first, (sometimes cooked outdoors on a fire) and then activity times. The parent and children remained together the entire time and spent most of the program outdoors in our playground. Outdoors in the playground, they cooked, read stories, explored the garden, had discussions about nature and did art activities.

The impact on the children and families in the centre was huge. As they became more comfortable with being outdoors and spending time with other families and to gain an appreciation of nature. There were a few educators from our program that were able to stay and learn from the facilitator, so that some of the ideas could be used in our daily program.

What do you think was the biggest impact of this program?

We believe that these programs' biggest impact was the relationship building that resulted. The families got to know each other and the educators who were involved with the program a little better. Families came to the program a little unsure at the beginning, but at the end looking forward to spending the time together with others, eating, sharing and learning together.