Creating a Literacy and Math Home Provider Coaching Model

Challenges
• Scheduling coaching time
• Family time
• Inconsistent child attendance
• Relaxed attitudes about programming
• Mixed age-groups
• Limited space for learning activities
• Limited resources

Advantages
• Flexible
• Highly Motivated
• Intimate
• Mixed age groups
• Warm and Inviting

Successes
• Increased Knowledge Base
• Increased Professionalism
• Improved Environments
• Increased Literacy and Math Experiences
• Continued Professional Development after project conclusion

Reading Area

THEN
Monica wanted to provide an area in her home daycare where children could go and sit comfortably while they read. When we started, there was an area designated for reading. Children had little opportunity to relax in a comfortable setting with a book.

NOW
A quiet, comfortable area with soft materials is set aside for reading. Books are displayed in a basket on the floor as well as on shelves. The area is attractive and inviting.
Writing Opportunities

THEN
Monica shared that she liked the younger children to have writing opportunities but when older children came in the afternoon, the writing area was misused - consequently - there was no designated writing area. Also, written material was not displayed at child’s eye level. Children work was not displayed.

NOW
All materials were brought down to child level and small intimate spaces were provided for children to use and explore a print rich environment. The area now is attractive and inviting.

Numeracy Opportunities

THEN
Callie expressed that she wanted to make a math center that would be inviting and appropriate for the children in her care. She felt they needed numeracy opportunities.

NOW
Ongoing math activities are displayed at child’s eye level, a math center is organized and freely available for children, and math activity manipulatives are used during group time and made available to children during work time.

Literacy Opportunities

THEN
Callie is the director/owner of her daycare and was concerned that she needed more literacy and numeracy opportunities for the children in her care. Since she cares for multiple ages of children, she wanted a better room arrangement which would allow her to leave a writing area open for longer periods of the day. She also wanted to incorporate literacy into each activity area in her room but was concerned about the wide age range of her students.

NOW
Children freely explore a variety of literacy activities throughout the room. Books are available in an easy to reach book rack. The alphabet is displayed at child’s eye level and alphabet awareness activities such as stamping and story extensions are part of the daily routine. Children frequently explore nursery rhymes displayed at child’s eye level.
Mary is the owner/teacher in a group home setting. She hoped to add what she had learned in the Literacy class to what she was already doing to support literacy and numeracy in her home daycare.

There are soft materials and literacy materials at children’s eye level as well as a book rack for children to freely use. More area was created to incorporate block play into the children’s day. A reading shelf displays books and activities which children can easily access and a dramatic play area is now available for children to use.