

March, 2012

Child & Youth Development Services

READ ACROSS AMERICA

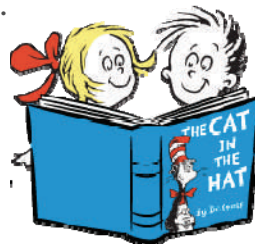
By Susan Neufeld (Director of Child & Youth Development, HTHF)

In After School and Beyond, KidzLit is a key program component. Designed specifically for after school programs, the curriculum is focused on increasing students' love for reading (reading motivation) and understanding of what they are reading (reading comprehension). We believe (and the research shows) that these two literacy elements – motivation and comprehension – are important first steps to improving overall student literacy. Our logic is that kids who love to read, read more and kids who read more become...well... better readers.

Why is being a better reader important? Why does literacy matter so much that we would choose to make it a high priority? Literacy is important because it is a tool used by all other disciplines. We cannot successfully do math (especially word problems!), run science experiments, write a college entrance essay, or understand history without an ability to read. Moreover, we cannot cook a meal, use a cleaning product appropriately, figure out a bus route, or give our children the right medication dosage without an ability to understand the written word.

Literate children function better in life. They are also deeper critical thinkers, are more likely to graduate successfully from high school, have more earning potential, and are less likely to land in jail. The data on this last point are so strong that **many states use 3rd grade literacy scores to track future prison populations.**

This month, infuse your program with reading. Play with books. Write and illustrate your own story. Have a poetry slam. Write a song in another language. Produce your own play. And remember: reading matters because we want our children to break out of the cycle of poverty and into the realm of possibilities.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Peace Corner: Peace at Home
- Idea Corner: Book Worms
- Tools of the Trade: Youth Autonomy
- Get info about our upcoming trainings and the monthly site challenge!



Yvonne Cao

MEET OUR STAR STAFF

Congratulations, Yvonne Cao
 Rancho Verde Village, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Our March Star Staff theme is “Creativity,” which Yvonne has loads of. In fact her co-workers say, “she IS creativity!” We have enjoyed seeing much of her creativity in action at our all staff trainings at Rancho Verde Village. Thank you Yvonne for sharing your skills and passion with us!

Get to know Yvonne:

- Favorite colors: **Sea-foam Green**
- Favorite food: Sushi
- Favorite/Dream Vacation: Europe
- What she is most proud of: Graduating college.
- Her favorite part about working with youth: Being able to inspire them and act silly.

“While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about.”
 - Angela Schwindt

PEACE CORNER

Peace at Home

- Invite parents to a “Peace Party.” Discuss Peace Builder principals and do Peace Builder activities.
- Have youth create a Praise Board to take home and use with their families. Provide copies of Praise Notes.
- Have youth “show and tell” the praise boards after using them at home. Have youth discuss the praises they received and gave and how it worked at home.
- Create a coupon book full of helpful actions for youth to give their parents, caregivers and siblings.
- Hold a “Help-a-Thon” and encourage youth to do helpful things at home then report back to the program. Keep a running list of all the help they give to parents, caregivers and siblings

PEACE BUILDERS SPOTLIGHT

Our Amazing After School & Beyond Staff!!

We are so grateful to have a group of dedicated, caring and creative individuals. Each person on our team brings unique gifts and talents to the table. Together, we make an unstoppable team determined to improve the lives of children and families!



Top Row: Maria Argueta, Desmond Barnes, Cecilia Vargas, Jessica Dominguez, Lissette Naranjo, Elvira Garcia, Gloria Soto, Valerie Wilkerson, Sequoia Gomez. 2nd Row: Naomi Morelia, MeAnna Jenkins, Matt Lightner, Debra Viola, Nicole Coleman-Walker, Shelissa Jones, Denisha Bennett, Yvonne Cao, Ebony Jenkins. 3rd Row: Kadeem Gomez, Querita Williams, Kimberly Wingson, Salvador Nuno, Jenish Prasad, Bryanna Parker, Steven Alvarado, Alisha Massengale, Tyrone Trapp, Sara Moreno, Lamar Simmons, Veronica Garcia, Ashton Horton, Beno Anastacio, Tiara Ford, Anthony Dalton, Monserrat Mondragon, Adrien Flores, Cathleen Hernandez, Tamarah, Myles, Paula Reynolds. Not pictured: Dominique Conner, Mia Tswago, Dominique Johnson, Alejandra Gustave, Valerie Vega, Erica Vega, Liz South, Deanna Castaneda, Kenia Quintero, Stas Golovkin, Sandra Mizel, Laronda Wordlouw, Pourcha Harris, Esther Amando, John Paul Manego

A TOUR OF HOPE

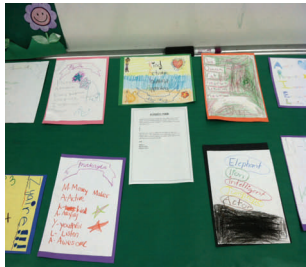
BEST PRACTICES OF AFTER SCHOOL AND BEYOND



Above and Right: Artwork and Cozy Corner at Vista Dunes in LaQuinta, CA



Below: Staff relieving some stress at our February Training



Above: Artwork and Projects being displayed at Hawthorne Terrace in Hawthorne, CA



Right: High School students at Eisenhower High School in Rialto, CA



IDEA CORNER

Book Worms



- Create a comfortable space in a quieter area
- Make sure books are available to youth at all times
- Rotate books or trade with other sites so youth have new books to read each month
- If possible, take youth to the local library
- Provide books related to what youth are interested in
- Create a book list of books read in program and/or at home
- Set a reading goal, number of books read or amount of time spent reading, and create a read-o-meter to track your goal



- Have youth journal about the books they've read and what they did or did not like
- Read a book, watch the movie and discuss the differences and whether youth prefer the book or the movie
- Make a trivial pursuit game based on youth's favorite books
- Create books in program, laminate and bind them, then add them to the library

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

**Promoting Youth
Autonomy**

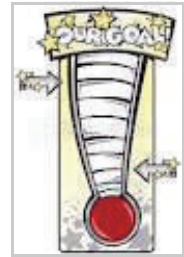
- Believe in their ability
- Ask their opinions on important topics
- Ensure that supplies and materials are organized and labeled for easy access
- Have consistent schedules and transitions
- Make sure that expectations and rules are appropriate and reasonable
- Create multiple visual reminders of expectations, positive reinforcement and activity cues
- Don't do things for them that they can do on their own
- Provide choices and options
- Encourage them to brainstorm solutions to problems instead of telling them what to do
- Encourage and praise attempts to do things on their own despite the outcome
- Help them create a plan to accomplish large tasks and goals
- Give them real and meaningful responsibilities
- Praise them for what they are doing instead of giving negative feedback about what they aren't doing



MARCH SITE CHALLENGE

BOOK BUSTERS

March's site challenge is to read as many books as possible during program hours — small books, big books, picture books and chapter books. Just keep track of the date, book and minutes read each time you read out loud during program. (For this challenge, you must have structured group reading time. Individual reading does not count, but it is ok to read in small groups). To enter, just submit your chart of books and time spent reading (see sample chart below) by Wednesday April 4th.



Prizes: The site that spends the most amount of time reading will win a \$100 shopping spree at Discount School Supply. The site that reads the most books will receive a \$50 shopping spree at Discount School Supply. Read on!!



Date	Book	Minutes Read

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Loteria (Mexican BINGO)- Friday March 2nd at 5:00pm
Cobblestone Village in Escondido, CA

Charadas (Spanish Charades)- Friday March 2nd at 5:00pm
Sierra Vista in San Marcos, CA

Green Day Dance– Thursday March 15th at 4:00pm
Hawthorne Terrace in Hawthorne, CA
Dance, food and games!

Peace Builders Party– Thursday March 15th at 5:00pm
Villaggio on Route 66 in Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Talent Show– Friday March 30th at 4:00pm
Rancho Verde Village in Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Pop Locking performance!



WELCOME TO SEUSSVILLE

LIFE ACCORDING TO DR. SEUSS

Adapted from sourcesofinsight.com

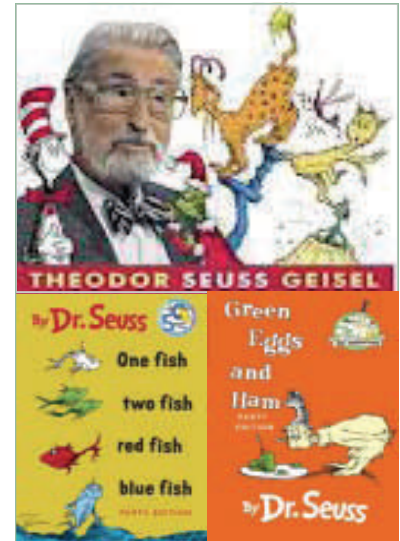
Lessons Learned from Dr. Seuss

Be a thinker of great things. Dr. Seuss teaches us, “Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!”

Be your best you. In the words of Dr. Seuss, “There is no one alive who is Youer than You.” Make the most of what you’ve got. In Yertle the Turtle, we see “feather envy” and it’s a gentle reminder to be careful what you wish for and appreciate what you’ve got.

Bend your world in wonderful ways. Nobody bends it like the Cat in the Hat. From the metaphors you use, to the thinks that you think, you can shape your world that’s right in front of you.

Don’t put yourself in a box. You’re only limited by your own imagination. The Cat in the Hat teaches us how to let our imaginations run wild.



“A child can ask questions that a wise man cannot answer.” - Unknown

Don’t waste your time worrying who’s better than who. In Yertle the Turtle, Dr. Seuss teaches us that “You have better things to do than argue who’s better than who.”

Dream it and do it. You can move mountains when you put your mind to it. Direct your life like a blockbuster and make things happen.

Edutainment wins over boring and ho-hum. With whacky words, wondrous worlds, and fantastical characters, Dr. Seuss taught us the edutainment is how you change a child’s life. Reading is only boring if you make it so.

Persistence pays off. Be relentless in your pursuit of things. In Green Eggs and Ham, it was through persistence that Sam-I-Am finally got the unnamed character to try the green eggs and ham. In real life, Dr. Seuss’s first children’s book, And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street, was rejected 27 times before being published by Vanguard Press.

Treat people fairly and squarely. In The Sneetches and Other Stories, Dr. Seuss shows us that we can’t judge people by their lot in life or whether they have a star on their belly. In Yertle the Turtle, it’s a reminder not to climb over people on your way to the top, because they’re same people you’ll see on your way back down.

Try it ... you just might like it. In Green Eggs and Ham, when the unnamed character was surprised to find out that he actually likes green eggs and ham once he tried them. You just never know until you try.

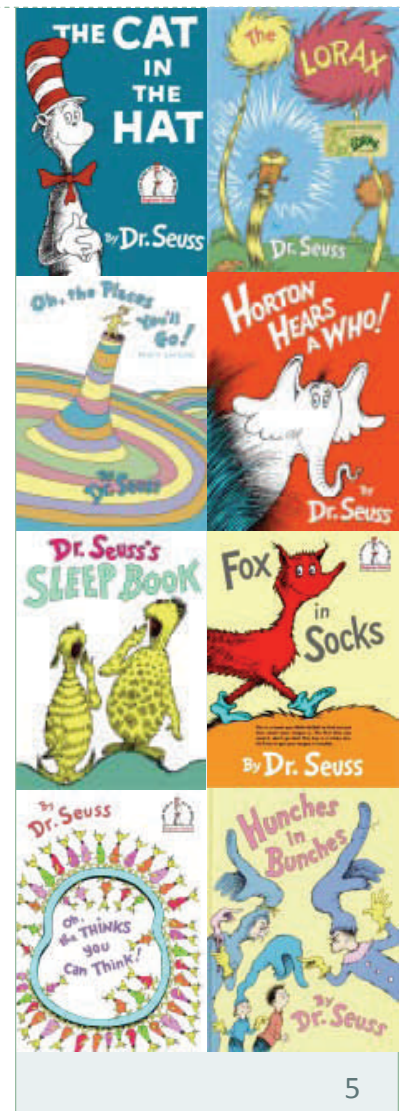
Saying you’re sorry can help make things right. In Bartholomew and the Oobleck, when the king finally said the magic words, “I’m sorry,” and “it’s all my fault,” he helped make things right again.

Setbacks happen. Deal with them and move on. Make trouble think twice about messing with you.

Some people are much more unlucky than you. When you’re down in the dumps and things get real bad, remind yourself that somewhere, somehow, someday ... somebody is much “more unlucky than you.”

Success is a journey and we all have our own paths. Make your journey count. Don’t let fear stop you. Don’t let conventional wisdom stop you. Lead the life you want to live, and when there’s no path, make one.

Your voice counts. In Horton Hears a Who, Dr. Seuss shows us how one little voice can tip the scale ... after all, “A person’s a person, no matter how small.”



IMPORTANT DATES

2- SC Retreat @ 9045; 9am-1pm

6- City Span Training @ Corporate
12:30pm- 2:30pm

9- Peace Builders Training @
Villaggio; 9am- 1pm

13- SC Meeting @ 9045
1pm-2:30pm

16- All Staff Training @ Rancho
Verde Village
1pm- 5pm

30- KidzLit/ Virtual Vacations
Training @ Villaggio
9am-1pm

MARCH FUN FACTS

Flower: Daffodil

Stone: Aquamarine

March is: Umbrella Month

Optimism Month

National Kite Month

Days of Interest: 1- National Pig Day

1- Peanut Butter Lovers' Day

2- Read Across America/ Dr. Seuss Day

3- If Pets Had Thumbs Day

8- Popcorn Lovers' Day

14- Pi Day

15- Incredible Kid Day

17- St. Patrick's Day

21- Flower Day

26- Make Up Your Own Holiday Day



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HOPE through HOUSING
FOUNDATION

TRAINING LOCATIONS

Rancho Verde Village

8837 Grove Avenue

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Parking: Any uncovered spot

Villaggio on Route 66

10220 Foothill Boulevard

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Parking: Any uncovered spot

9045 Conference Room

9045 Haven Avenue

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

This room is located diagonally across the courtyard in the same business complex as the corporate office.