Toddler Tech & Community
Cooperative Links for Family Literacy

Jenna Welch & Laura Bush Community Library
El Paso Community College - Northwest Campus

Seguimos Creando Enlaces Conference
San Diego, CA
March 7, 2014
Jenna Welch and Laura Bush
Community Library

How the partnership started...

Monica Wong
Head Librarian
Our location.... three states & two nations

- Public/Academic Partnership
- Serving an underserved population
- Increase in community users over the last decade
- Community interest in learning new technologies
Our unique Location

City County line without a public library
Low income agricultural area & affluent upper valley
Predominantly Spanish speaking
Low literacy level
Next to a high school, an early college high school & a head start
Partnerships

- Excellent timing
- Need for library services
- Visionary administrators
- Mutual missions
- Willing staff
- Available resources

Top level commitment:
- College President
- Library Director
- City Mayor
- Superintendent of School District
Jenna Welch and Laura Bush Community Library
a partnership with El Paso Public Library since 2003
Partnerships

School partners:
Canutillo ISD, El Paso ISD, Northwest Early College High School, Head Start.

Community partners:
Girl Scouts, YWCA.

U.S. Federal programs:
Southwest Key Children’s Shelter, USAID
Georgetown University SEED program.
Family Literacy Programs

Summer Books and Beyond

http://youtu.be/JZSOzZv25bM

“Babies learning and teens participating in fun activities in the middle of an academic library are all part of the way librarians at this joint-use facility are redefining what a library can be”

ALA, April 2008
Family Literacy Programs

Toddler Tech

http://youtu.be/9cG2Z7-BPms

Replicate program in other El Paso Public Library branches
Family Literacy Programs

Toddler Tech

http://youtu.be/9cG2Z7-BPms

Children practice mobile, social, communication skills and learn to solve problems in a group setting.
Other Literacy Programs
Reading Across America/ Spring Arts Festival
Annual Programming

337 programs offered
11,089 attended in 2013
Toddler Tech

How we integrated technology into early learning.

Helen Bell
Reference Librarian
Toddler Tech

http://youtu.be/_3qXnl22ulk

- Partnership with Canutillo Migrant Program
- Pilot program focus on whole family
- Vision develops:
  - importance of parents as teachers
  - bilingual,
  - library culture
  - books and technology
  - manipulative and crafts
Library Culture

Book bags and bookmarks: incentives to encourage reading at home

Library culture:
• Book checkout and return;
• Care of library materials
• Daily parent child reading habit.
Integrating Hispanic Culture with Toddler Tech

Teachers from Central America SEED program share their knowledge of teaching children:

• Respect for parents
• Use of imaginary games
• Learning vocabulary with songs
• Interactive reading with children
• Use of hand made manipulatives
Traditional & Technology activities

Smart Tables & iPads for:
• Drawing & coloring
• Puzzles
• E-books
• Learning games: music, numbers, ABCs

Traditional activities:
• Drawing & crafts
• Card board puzzles
• Print books
• Manipulatives
Parent teaches child to use mouse

Reading books

SEED teacher holding child at Smartboard
Grandma and mom facilitate the exploring through technology

Library Culture

Checking out books
Program Coordination

How everything is planned....

Maria Estela Gleason
El Paso Community College ESOL Faculty,
Library Community Program Coordinator
Program Coordination

- Program logistics and lessons learned
- Storytime and theme for 6 modules created
- Ensure parent participation
- Evaluation & Feed back
Program Logistics

- Color code groups of 5 to 25 children per group for 4 stations
- Tour of the library
- Story and song with selected theme
- Children go to technology stations
- Rotate every 15 minutes
Technology Activities

- Encourage interaction
- Follow rules,
- Develop, communication, mobile, analytical skills,
- Group efforts to solve problem.

Smart Table: theme related activities
Technology iPads

• Select ebooks, puzzles related to theme
• Monitor and assist children’s iPad activities
Encourage Parent participation
Evaluation & Feedback

- Develop bilingual questionnaires
- Collect observation reports
- Collect surveys from parents and teachers
Technology Integration

Advantages and disadvantages.....

Christian Waldmännstetter
Library Staff
Technology Integration

Overview SMART Table
• Advantages / Disadvantages

Overview iPad
• Advantages / Disadvantages

Library Program Video
http://www.epcc.edu/Library/NW/Pages/Videos.aspx
The SMART Table.

http://exchange.smarttech.com/
iPads: Our App folders
An Interactive Multi-lingual eBook
Storage for iPads and Airplay
• Integrate thematic technology applications to story books, puzzles and crafts
• Use iPad protectors
• Get an iPad storage device for security and to synchronize
• Organize age appropriate apps in folders
• Involve as many parents as possible to make iPads a learning tool
• Change activates every 15-20 minutes
Measuring our Success

Maribel, age 3, says
“I like coming to the library. I learn shapes, colors and I love reading. I love iPads!”

Emiliano, age 9, says
“I learned that the library is not boring, you should come a lot...”

Javier, age 4, says
“This is my best day ever!”
Measuring our Success

Parents say

Mrs. Rios says: “I learned that it’s very important to teach our children about technology. I always thought it was playing video games, but there are many learning programs….

Mrs. Luna says: ”Diego loves coming to the library and learned shapes on the Smart Table. I got library card for my self and for my children.”

“This is Alejandra’s first year in Toddler Tech program. She is only two, and she learned to use the technology, to share and interact with kids,”
Measuring our Success

• “We have a surge of special needs children. We can see our (special needs) children actively participating in this program. So much so, that we would like to invite your staff to discuss the program with our special needs consultant.”
Measuring our Success

Margarita Harmeson, Partner, Migrant Program, says

“They (migrant children) come here (library) and have access to lots of books in Spanish and English...They learn procedures of checking books out of the library. They learn what is expected of them at a very young age.”

Texas State Library Grants Administrator says

The community around the Northwest campus is benefitting in ways that cannot be calculated yet, but will be realized in the years to come.
Thank you!

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