



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Charlotte M. Murkland School
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Dear Colleagues,

The Murkland School had the opportunity to have the **Raising A Reader** program start last year in our Pre-School classrooms. Approximately fifty young children were exposed to early literacy skills at home with their parents. The Raising a Reader program proved to be a huge success for teachers, the students and the families.

There are many reasons as to why this program proved to be so well received by teachers and families. The **Raising A Reader** program does an excellent job at providing all the resources that are needed for a successful partnership between families and school in supporting literacy at home.

First, the supplies that were provided are top-notch. Each child got a sturdy red bag to transport the books to and from school each week. The red bag has special meaning to each student and family because inside they know there books to enjoy. The quality of the books is impressive and appealing. Each book has additional bindings and laminate on the covers to ensure that the conditions of the books remain as if they were new. The titles of the books include classic stories as well as some of the newest titles. The books vary by genre and topic which helps to appeal to each individual child's interest. Children come to school excited on the days when they will exchange their bags with new books to take home and share.

The second reason for success is due to the thoughtful training that is done by the staff at **Raising A Reader** to prepare parents for how they can successfully read to their child at home. Many parents want to help their child at home, but they often lack the confidence, the strategies to best support their child, and the proper supplies. The **Raising A Reader** staff in collaboration with school staff take the time to form welcoming non-threatening relationships with the families, and then they work to model for parents the many varied ways that they can help their child with reading at home to help build early literacy skills. Parents leave the training feeling comfortable, confident, and empowered to help their child at home while supporting their early literacy development. School staff feels supported because there is collaboration between the classroom teacher and the staff from **Raising A Reader** throughout the year to sustain and monitor the success of the program.

What more could a school ask for? Children are being motivated to read and parents are excited about reading with their child at home. The **Raising A Reader** program is one that students, staff, and families at the Murkland School feel fortunate to have as a resource in helping to build early literacy reading skills. As principal of the Murkland School, I am sincerely appreciative of your generosity in support of this meaningful program.

Sincerely,

Jason DiCarlo
Principal, Murkland School