



The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
2002-2003

FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Home School Discovery Kits

List of group members: Nancy Hart and Kathy Wilson

The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form. Include information under each of the following headings.

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

Goals: To establish 20 school-home Discovery kits to:

1. Increase parent-school communication and links
2. Provide appropriate materials for home use that will encourage children and their parents to read and interact at home.
3. Promote a love of learning, get families excited about and involved in their child's growing abilities as a learner.
4. Build content knowledge, extend the language arts, math, science, and social studies curriculum beyond the limits of the classroom.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

We identified our goal: for each of us to make two sets of ten different discovery kits for children to borrow, use at home with their family and return to school for use by another student. We looked at various models, types and organizations of School-Home kits. We checked both internet sources and through the resource book we purchased. We decided to proceed with the basic format of the resource book. We each chose 10-12 kits that we felt would work successfully for kindergarten students and their parents. We discussed the specific kits we chose. We decided which ones would complement the curriculum and eliminated those that we felt might pose a problem. We made copies of all the kits to be built. We went through our supplies for materials that we already had. We listed all the materials that we would need to purchase.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

We met two hours per week to work on this project. At the end of each work session, we discussed what we would need to do or get or make before the next work session. There was always homework! It turned out that it was a rather large, time-consuming project. (But

very, very valuable!!!)

Evaluation of the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.

- How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Have any of your teaching practices changed?

We feel that our communication with parents will continue to grow and be enhanced. Parents like that all the materials are at their fingertips and that they can make effective use of the time spent with their child.

- **What evidence is there that student achievement is improving as a result of your participating in this study group? What kind of difference are you observing in your students?**

Kids are and will continue to be excited by the Discovery Kits. They love learning, working one to one with mom or dad and anticipating what the next kits will be.

- **What evidence is there that the goals of the study group has/has not been met?**

We feel that the goals have all been met and surpassed. We exceeded our original expectations, as we have been excited to watch the project unfold. We look forward to adding to the project as time goes on.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

The study group process allowed us to work more collegially and more effectively toward a common goal.

How can we make this study group program better?

The two things that we would like to have had were:

1. more time
2. Help paying for some of the many materials we purchased.