



**The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County**  
**Teacher Study Group Grant Award**  
**Summer 2008-2009**  
**FINAL REPORT**  
**DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES**

**STUDY GROUP TOPIC:** Words Their Way

**List of group members:** Candace Blakeslee and Heather Badger-Brown

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

Our goal was to find a better way to teach Spelling skills to our students which led us to investigating Words Their Way. We wanted to study the book and determine how to implement the program in our inclusion classroom. We also wanted to outline the program so that our colleagues could easily understand and use it. Finally, we wanted to outline the program and present it to our administration for their consideration.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

First, we investigated the book and the resource books that accompany it. We found the program to be solid and use best practices. We also found the program to offer differentiated instruction for our diverse group of learners.

Next, we outlined what the program would look like in our classroom. This included student directed activities, teacher directed activities, physical arrangement, and book keeping.

Finally, we made a power point presentation. This included an outline of the process and our input on how to implement it.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

We have a plan to implement the program with our students in the Fall. We also shared the power point presentation with our peers and administration.

Evaluate the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance. How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Do you anticipate that any of your teaching practices will have changed?

We anticipate a huge change in the way we teach Spelling and word knowledge to our students. We believe this way of teaching will improve students' performances in reading and writing.

What evidence do you expect to see of student achievement improving as a result of your participating in this study group?

We expect to see improved reading and writing skills, less frustration, and students who are more engaged in their learning.

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

Our power point presentation demonstrates our knowledge of the Words Their Way program. We also have a plan to implement the program in September.

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

The study group was extremely valuable to us. It allowed us time, which we don't have during the school year, to explore new teaching practices.

How can we make this study group program better?

The study group program is excellent as it stands. Thank you.