

Reading Bingo & Read To Me Events

Kullerstrand Elementary School

Westminster, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education



With everyone facing challenges around learning growth through the pandemic - Kullerstrand Vision Partnership Team decided to focus on supporting literacy to try and bridge the gap caused by the inconsistent learning environments of the past two years. The goal was to create learning opportunities around literacy in which families could play a role. The Kullerstrand Vision Partnership Team is comprised of administrators, teachers, parents, and other staff. The team worked together to create and implement the plan to, not only bring these learning experiences to the home, but to also make them fun and inviting for all to participate.

The team created both a monthly Reading Bingo that the kids and families complete at home over the month, and a monthly Read To Me Event with guest readers who came in to read to a class each month. Families were then invited to stay after the Read To Me Event to speak one on one with the instructional coach and reading specialist to get tips and ideas on how to best support their student at home. Between these two monthly events - over 300 books were given away to participating students. These practices helped to create a feeling of community where all parties played an important role in the education of Kullerstrand students. The enhanced sense of community is key to the positive school climate at Kullerstrand. The reading scores for Kullerstrand students have shown growth this year. This is due to the hard work of teachers and students and was supported by these enriching practices to help foster literacy at home, as well as at school.



The programs were evaluated monthly by the Vision Partnership Team. The team looked at participation rates and also discussed what was working well and what could be improved. The Reading Bingo had a 10% - 15% rate of participation consistently. It was decided that it was reaching enough families that it was worth continuing for the remainder of the year. The Read To Me Events were well attended by Kullerstrand families throughout the year. The feedback from those present was always positive.

If your school is interested in offering these enriching literacy opportunities to your families, one piece of advice would be to make sure to communicate with all parties involved with plenty of time prior to the event. It was important for the teachers to have their scheduled Read To Me date with enough time for them to plan. It was also important to communicate with the families to let them know they were invited to the events. The monthly Reading Bingo seemed to work better when it was sent home in paper form. It was still available for families digitally, but when it was sent home each month in paper form, the participation seemed a bit higher.