Bringing Together Clinical Education and Community Outreach

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Financial Disclosure
I have the following relevant financial relationship(s) in the products or services described, reviewed, evaluated or compared in this presentation.

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History of Literacy Fair
Literacy Fair started in 2011

Literacy based community event

Sponsored by NSU/VA but planned and organized by Undergraduate Students (Juniors and Seniors) in Language and Literacy Course

Objectives of Literacy Fair
Community Outreach

Purpose - to share information with the community about the importance of:
- reading to children of all ages
- using shared book experiences for language development.
Advertising Committee

Determine the best means of advertising Literacy Fair to the community
Create a variety of specific forms of the advertisement (for example a newspaper article, a flier, a radio announcement, etc.)
Distribute the advertisements (contact newspaper office, take fliers to local facilities, etc.)
Develop a creative way of "announcing the event" on the scheduled day on the sidewalk outside of the facility

Facilities Committee

Communicate with the site of Literacy Fair
Write letters or forms of request and then of thanks for the use of the targeted facility
Arrange for necessary equipment and furniture (tables, chairs, etc.) that might be needed at the site for the event
Collaborate with other committees in order to create a physical lay-out for events and activities
Set-up and Clean-up

Book Procurement Committee

Obtain books for a wide range of ages and related to a wide variety of interests which will be distributed as "free" books to the children who attend (one free book to each attendee)
Obtain several high quality books to be used as prizes
Write letters of thanks to contributors
Create a creative display for books from which children will choose their free book and a creative activity which will permit the distribution of books
Create an "opportunity for other give-away books"

Parent Information Committee

Create a brochure which will be distributed to parents.
Brochure shares information about the connections between language and literacy and how a parent can facilitate those connections.
Create a visual display or displays which will provide information related to literacy fair topics

Activities Committee

Plan 5+ engaging and fun games and activities that encourage interaction or provide opportunities for language use and/or development
Procure the materials/supplies needed to plan activities
Create the schedule for the day’s events
Create a visual display of the day’s events
Collect materials for a "literacy" bag to be given to each child
Storytelling Team

Select a piece of children’s literature that can perform as story theatre
Very simple “costumes,” very few props
Stories include as much “audience participation” and interaction in the story as possible
Create 1-2 inviting places where children may “drop and read”
Staff the drop and read corners; prepare corners with simple props which will facilitate the story sharing

Benefits of Literacy Fair

Foster creativity
Collaborate with classmates within groups and between groups
Adhere to a strict budget
Apply concepts learned in class to “real-world” situations
Emphasize the importance of community outreach
Interact with children of all ages and literacy levels
Administrative duties (emails, procuring books, thank you notes)

Drawbacks/Limitations

Fluctuations in attendance
“Competition” with Virginia Book Fair
At times, variety of age ranges could be overwhelming for students

Virginia Children’s Book Festival

The Virginia Children’s Book Festival (VCBF) was founded in 2011 by Juanita Giles and Katie Snyder.

Has grown into the largest children’s book festival on the East Coast.

3 Day Event on campus of Longwood University

Special Populations Programs

Partnership with Longwood University’s Speech, Hearing, and Learning Services
One morning during the festival
Provided festival lineup tailored to children with sensory sensitivity and other special needs.
Graduate students in M.S. CSD program assisted with the programming

When special education teachers decided to attend, difficulty registering and figuring out which seminars to attend.
Virginia Children’s Book Festival

- Special Populations Programs
- Authors familiar with working with special populations
- Provided hands-on opportunities/Clinical clock hours
- Community Outreach
- Fulfillment of graduate assistantship duties

Virginia Children’s Book Festival

- Special Populations Programs
- Graduate students assisted with programming
- Provided clinical opportunities
- Fulfillment of graduate assistantship duties

Drawbacks/Limitations

- Advertising of Special Programs Event
- Difficulty with schedule
- More children than GAs who could assist

VCBF/Literacy Fair

- Coordinated with local school districts
- All day programming
- Lunch provided
- Author Storytelling
- Mural Painting
- Musical programming
- Literacy Activities

Benefits and Highlights

- More participation from special education classrooms
- Smaller groups for anxious students
- More "manageable" logistics for special education teachers

What we are working on for 2020...

- More advanced advertising of Special Programs Event to local school districts
- More streamlined schedule
- Rearranging of Undergraduate committees to foster more interaction with graduate students
Thank You!
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