



Program Planning

Library: Greece Public Library

Title of Program or Event: Reading with Strong P.E.T.S.

Age level: ages 5+

Description of Activity: Children had the opportunity to read a story to various dogs. There were four therapy dogs. Children signed up for a time period, arrived during that time period, and then read to the dogs. It happened that most children were able to read to all four dogs.

Objectives / Goals: To give children the opportunity to practice reading aloud without being corrected.

Suggested setting: Library community room, or weather permitting, the story garden outside the library.

Time required: 2 hrs.

Materials and Staff needed: Variety of books on several grade levels. Sign-up sheet.

Advanced Preparation: Discuss with therapy dog coordinator how to structure the program sequence.

Procedure:

Children first chose a book to read (or they could bring their favorite book). During “their” half-hour time period, the children would take turns reading to the dogs.

Modifications:

Evaluation: It was awesome. The program attracted two local television stations to tape the activities and the story was aired on two stations three different times. The children and the adults **loved** the dogs. They want more programs like this.