



DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESSFUL READING PROGRAMME	
PROGRAMME TITLE: Rolling Books Institute of Education Primary Centre	
Description Created by LiRe Partner Institution: University of Worcester (Pippa Abbott)	
Time & Place	Target Group(s)
February – July 2011	4 local schools and local library, West Midlands, UK
Short Description (Max. 200 words)	
<p>The project was focused on a 'Rolling Books' programme. Initiated by the local library, children from the four schools wrote and published a story book which was then made available to borrow in the library and in school. It was also possible for parents and friends to purchase the book. Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (eight from each school) analysed how books were composed and attended a series of planning meetings to write the book. Meetings were up to two hours and three meetings a week took place. Aspects of narrative were examined before the story for the book was started. The children then decided on ideas for their story and the writing process began. One school wrote the first chapter with the other schools writing successive chapters. The story was made available on a 'Wiki' site, a new learning platform for all the schools. The participants could make suggestions or make comments as the story developed. The children voted for a title, commissioned talented artists from the schools to illustrate the book, designed a cover and created a blurb. On completion of the book, the library held a celebratory launch night and carried out readings.</p>	
Objectives (General & Specific)	
<p>General Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote a love of reading <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase and raise awareness of library membership • To challenge gifted readers in their understanding of the book-making process • To work collaboratively through the medium of ICT • To increase reading motivation in the project schools • To forge community links between schools and the library service 	
Scheme of Reading Promotion Actions & Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting between librarian and schools' representatives 2. Meeting with librarian, teachers and children to discuss story ideas 3. Text analysis to deconstruct aspects of narrative 4. First school posts first chapter on 'Wiki' learning platform: feedback received and chapter edited 5. Second school writes the next chapter; editing process repeated 6. Third and fourth schools make their contributions 7. Text closely scrutinised and proof-read by the children 8. Story illustrated - layout considered and planned 9. Title chosen – <i>It's a Sweet Life</i> 	



LIFELONG READERS

10. Cover designed and blurb written
11. Final publication completed
12. Launch night
13. Schools presented books in assemblies
14. Books available to purchase and borrow

Results / Indicators of Success

The participating schools judged the project to be a success for several reasons. The project had created a 'buzz' around creating a book that people would read. The children's input, time and writing were valued and the concrete outcome resulted in the children having a real sense of achievement. The fact that some of the children, who were not necessarily able readers and writers, could contribute by illustrating the book, was seen as a bonus. Effective links were forged with the library; the librarian in charge of the project became a governor at one of the schools. The children's ICT skills also improved.

CONCLUSIONS

(WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHY)

Although this turned out to be a time-consuming project, the participants agreed that they would repeat the project. The learning platform, although new to the schools, proved to be effective and children became very engaged in the reading and writing processes which it facilitated. The time frame of six months was adequate, although some of the impact was lost over the summer break when children moved year groups or schools. Collaboration between the schools was positive; again the learning platform worked well in keeping up the momentum as it would have been difficult to arrange face-to-face meetings each week.

This was a project run by the local library service and the four participating schools. No formal evaluations of the project were made. There is no evidence of increased membership of the library, although the series of book readings were popular with the children and parents.



Lifelong Learning Programme

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