

Ingham Impact Episode 32 – Episode 32 - Ingham Family Literacy Calendars Read by Grade 3

Wendy Boyce: Reading proficiently by grade 3 is important because that is the year when children really go from learning to read, to reading to learn, so we know that reading proficiently impacts children's future success in all areas of school. Learning begins at home, and parents are looking for easy, fun, and educational activities to do with their children. The Ingham Intermediate School District, The Ingham Great Start Collaborative, Capital Area District Library, and WKAR have worked together collaboratively to create two calendars for parents and caregivers to support their children in school readiness, and reading proficiency. The Ingham Early Learning Calendar focuses on families who have children from birth to school entry, and provides parents with monthly theme tips on playing with infants, toddlers and preschoolers, as well as a local resource, and a nursery rhyme. The daily activities are focused on the areas of kindergarten readiness, and provide parents with an activity they can do with their children, very easily at home, while on the go, or out and about in the community. The Family Literacy Calendar for K-1 was created as a next step to the Ingham Early Learning Calendar, and as a response to the "Read by Grade 3" law. This calendar is focused on parents and caregivers who have children in kindergarten and first grade. The calendar includes a monthly theme, a local resource, and a nursery rhyme. In addition, the calendar includes links to educational shows, through the PBS parents website. The calendar is focused on the foundational areas of literacy, and early numeracy and writing. The Family Literacy Calendar for K-1 and the Ingham Early Learning Calendar has been translated into Arabic, Burmese, Spanish, Nepali, Swahili, Somali, and Vietnamese. Both calendars can be used year after year, as numbers have intentionally been left off the calendars to provide for flexibility in use. One of the ways that many Early Childhood Programs have started using the Ingham Early Learning Calendar, is by printing off one month at a time to give to parents to support children's learning and development. Parents are very busy, and that home-school partnership is very important. The creators of these calendars really hope that parents and caregivers find these calendars as useful, valuable, educational, yet fun and easy to do activities with their children to support learning and development. Copies of the calendar can be available at the Capital Area District Library branches, and can be accessed electronically at www.inghamisd.org.

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