ESOL FAMILY LITERACY IN THE LIBRARY

Brookline ESOL Program
First Literacy LAB 2019
PROJECT CONTEXT

Brookline Housing Authority – ESOL Program
Immigrant Memoir Project (2016)
ESOL Family Literacy – Digital Storytelling (2018)
ESOL Family Literacy at the Library (2019)
PROJECT GOALS

To engage 10 low-income immigrant parents with school-age children in Brookline to high quality literacy activities that will:

1) Support immigrant parents with their English language development

2) Provide for print-rich home environments

3) Honor and encourage the telling of parent participants’ personal stories at home and with classmates.

4) Increase understanding and utilization of local library resources. (new)
PROJECT STRUCTURE

Two components
- 10 weeks curriculum using children’s literature and art as the basis of English language development and family literacy
- Student picture book creation
- Family event
PROJECT THEORY
PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH

Initiate planning meeting with librarian
Develop evaluation metrics in conversation with First Literacy staff
Draft weekly curriculum with input from BHA program and library staff
Reserve library space
Formalized partnership agreement with library staff
Confirm library staff teaching segments (content and dates)
Evaluation tools, workshop space, and dates confirmed
Outline of weekly curriculum drafted
OUTREACH

Distribute flyer and course information through BHA/ESOL, public schools, library, and other identified partners

Host 2 information sessions/registration day

11 participants, mostly moms from Asia and Middle East
CLASS ACTIVITIES

- Materials selection
- Text-based discussion prompt
- Vocabulary building/preview (word sorts)
- Questions for reading
  - What do you notice? What do you wonder? What do you like?
- Homework: writing and/or art assignment
PROJECT ACTIVITIES
### Project Activities: Word Sort

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<tr>
<th>thick</th>
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<th>hauling</th>
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EVALUATION

Pre/post form – student self reports
Weekly reading/writing work at home (with children)
Final art project (picture book)
Final event
LESSONS

Benefits and challenges in library
- Open to all – attracted more connected participants
- More interest in course content than library resource orientation
- May consider another venue in the future, given our mission specific to low-income learners

Intergenerational component was strong: picture book drafting
Many participants had opportunity to express creative gifts

Our next challenge: ESOL Family Literacy – Virtual Edition!
QUESTIONS & THANK YOU!