



United Jewish Federation®
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER

January 2016

Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor

Reading Partners Program



MARLYN'S MESSAGE

We have just incorporated two new partners into our fold--starting this month, volunteers are serving the after-school programs at the Stamford YMCA and at First Presbyterian Church (Fish Church.) This came about as our short tenure at the Yerwood Center came to an end and we needed to find alternative sites for the (mainly) teen volunteers.

Both of these after-school programs serve Stamford's public school students and are a haven for children whose families do not have the resources for other after- school activities and programs. I was reminded of how vital our services are when I went to orient the teens at these new locations. One day at the Fish Church the children had just come in from the buses and were noisily putting away their coats, opening and closing their lockers and rummaging through their backpacks for homework to be done with the volunteers. A little girl named Kaitlin came over to me and was curious about who I was and was I there to read with her? We talked a bit and then one of the adult volunteers

came over and herded her to the snack and homework area. I later found out that Kaitlin had been homeless for part of last year and was behind in her reading. The staff there are trying to help her catch up and spend a lot of time with her one-on-one.

Kaitlin's just one of many children who benefit from our program. We don't just read with our student partners---we are teachers, guides, mentors and sometimes confidants. We are a constant presence in their lives, as we meet them week after week to read, have interesting discussions, play literacy games, and articulate the progress they've made.

Thanks for your continued commitment and support of our mission.

Warm regards,
Marlyn

Literacy Card Games for Kids



GO FISH: Make up index cards with sight words to be learned for your student. Deal 7 cards to each player. Your student goes first. Ask your student for a word. If they have your card, you place the match on the table. If they don't have the card they "GO FISH" and choose a card from the deck.

Player with the most matches wins the game.

MAKE A SENTENCE: Make up flash cards with sight words to be learned. Place flash cards face up. Your student goes first. Player picks a card,

Teen Reading Partners at the YMCA



Teens (in back row) from Westhill HS and Greenwich Academy
Meet their Student Partners

There are 8 teens who are now servicing the after school program at the Stamford YMCA. Many of these teens have been Reading Partners for more than 1 year and they have an ability to make instant connections with their student readers.

says the word and puts it in a sentence. Card is turned over after sentence is complete. Continue game until all cards are turned over.

MEMORY: Make 2 index cards each for each sight word to be learned. Shuffle cards and place them face down on the table. Your student goes first. He/she chooses 2 cards and reads them; if they match, they keep them and go again. If they do not match, they flip them over and then you go. Player with the most pairs wins.

WAR: Make 2 index cards for each sight word to be learned. Deal cards equally. Turn them over at the same time and have student read his/her card. If two of the same words are flipped, you say "WAR!" Then both players count 3 cards and place them face down in a pile. The 4th card is placed face up. The player holding the card that begins with the letter that is closest to Z in the alphabet is the winner.

Thanks to Sarah Santasiero, Reading Teacher at Stark School, for these games!

The LEAD (Leadership-Enrichment-Acceptance-Development) afterschool program at the YMCA hosts children in grades K-5 every day after school. Their program emphasizes homework assistance, academic support and health and fitness. In addition to swimming, the children play basketball and have a regular dance program.

On the first day at the Y, the teen readers played a robust game of word bingo with the children. At the game's finish, smiles and excitement were abundant with cries of "Let's do it again next week!" Thanks to Reading Partners, that will happen. For children who would otherwise go home to empty apartments, these teens are caring and interested mentors who make a difference in their lives.

Encouraging Words

Words of Acceptance

- ~ You really seem proud of yourself for figuring that out.
- ~ What do you think you could do to feel better about it?
- ~ You seem frustrated. Try it this way.
- ~ You seem to really feel good about that.
- ~ I really like working with you because.....

Words that show confidence

- ~ Keep going; I know you can do it.
- ~ I have confidence in you because...
- ~ I know this is hard, but you'll figure it out.

Words that Recognize Effort and Improvement

- ~ In just one week you learned...



- ~Look how much you have improved.
- ~You really worked hard on that!
- ~ Yes, you got some wrong, but look how many you got right!

From The Reading Tutor's Handbook by J.P. Schumm

Dates on the Calendar

January 28, 1:00-2:30 PM Team Leader Meeting at UJF offices

April 22-30 Passover

May 24, 7:00-9:00 PM Set up for Appreciation Breakfast at the JCC

May 25, 9:30-11:30 AM Appreciation Breakfast at the JCC

For more information about Reading Partners, contact

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