



SEEDS OF EARLY LITERACY



SEEDS OF EARLY LITERACY is a training program designed to teach child care providers and teachers of young children how to provide school readiness activities to children ages birth through five. SEEDS training shows caregivers and teachers how to enrich the daycare or preschool experience in ways that directly influence children's development and prepare them for learning success in kindergarten. To date, almost 100 providers have completed SEEDS training, including self-employed child care professionals, child care center staff and parents of young children. Upon completion of the program, participants receive follow-up coaching to assist with the implementation of their training.

PARTICIPANTS LEARN HOW TO:

- **Create a literacy-rich learning environment in the home or classroom**
- **Ask questions that encourage language development**
- **Provide explicit learning opportunities in daily routines with children**
- **Recognize the stages of learning for second language learners**
- **Help children become aware of letters in fun and meaningful ways**
- **Promote language development through running commentary, word walls and conversation**
- **Support the writing process by knowing its developmental stages**
- **Use the daily schedule to promote vocabulary and background knowledge**
- **Create a family involvement plan using specific strategies**
- **Employ thematic lesson plans for vocabulary development**

COMMENTS FROM PAST SEEDS TRAINING PARTICIPANTS:

“SEEDS helped me to make learning experiences that I already knew how to do with children better, more fun and more literacy rich.”

“A little boy who was a newcomer to my daycare and wasn't interested in reading at all when he first started is now asking for more stories.”

“I think one of my parents summed it up pretty well, ‘My child is not only safe at your house, he is also learning.’ My children are writing more and reading earlier now than in the past.”

The SEEDS program was developed by Kate Horst and is available in Rochester through a partnership between First Steps, an initiative of the Rochester Area Foundation, and Child Care Resource and Referral of Rochester, MN.