

Janet Reames
“Leap Into Literature”
Johnston Elementary School

“Leap into Literature” promoted high-interest, high quality children’s literature that integrated Reading with all of the content areas for my kindergarten students.

“Leap into Literature” integrated Reading with all of the content areas, exposed children to an easily accessible variety of books and increased enthusiasm and a love for reading.

“Leap into Literature” included Big Books and leveled readers. It began with the selection of Big Books and leveled readers that linked content areas in district and state curriculum guidelines. These books were used for reading aloud, choral reading, and independent reading.

The books introduced certain concepts in the content areas. For example, The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle introduced the concept of metamorphosis. These books were used as a tool to pique the children’s interest in certain concepts in the content areas which were explored through such means as hands-on activities, language experience stories, and publishing their own books.

The students showed an increased interest in reading and independently read at least three books per week during our BEAR time.

The exposure to the wide variety and quantity of these books led to an increase in attainment of reading skills as measured by teacher- made assessments. There was an increase in engagement, interest, and enthusiasm for learning as children read and shared their new learning with other students.

This program supported what our school already does because it addressed the standards and used high -interest books which aren’t often found in a basal series.