

Sarah Kirkendohl
2021-2022 Teacher Vision Grant Summary

I have been so enthusiastic about using the supplies bought with this grant this year. The grant was for getting students excited and actively engaged in our reading small groups. I purchased leveled readers, tools for our small groups, and bags for our students to take the books home.

Students come to their reading groups each day. Each week we have a different leveled reader (based on their abilities). Most students come into kindergarten knowing only a few letters and a few sight words. At the end of the year, they are expected to be able to read a few sentences on a page. The tools such as: star pointers to point to words as we read, slinkies to stretch out sounds we hear in words, and magnifying glasses to find sight words in our stories have been a big success with our students. At the beginning of the year, I had two students out of twenty that were able to read. As of now, I have 17 students that are able to read simple sentences to short paragraphs in stories. I also have eleven out of twenty students who have already mastered all kindergarten sight words. I am so proud of their progress and the effects of tools and leveled readers used in and out of the classroom.

We have also been working on our stamina and fluency while we read. Students have their books in their independent book boxes. They use the whisper phones and finger flashlights to keep them engaged during independent reading. As a class, our reading stamina has grown from the beginning of the year. The take home pouches have been an effective system for an at home connection. Parents are able to hear their children read and see first hand what we are working on in class. The students are building fluency with reading their leveled books again at home throughout the week.

I am very appreciative of this grant and excited to purchase new items in the future with future grants. Thank you for supporting your students, teachers, schools, and communities!