

"It Has My Name"
2023-24 Grant Report
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It has continued to be a wonderful experience continuing this program of providing books for students to keep after we have used them together to address speech and language goals. Activities and crafts utilized in therapy have developed the students' knowledge of the story while targeting the specific speech and language goals of individual students. When the books go home, specific words have been highlighted for practice. For example, if a student is working on expressing synonyms, appropriate words are highlighted, and the parent is instructed to ask their child a word that means the same thing as the highlighted word. Students working on speech sound development highlight words that contain their target sounds. Parents and students love receiving these books, and their home libraries have grown significantly. Students who have been a part of the program for all three years now own at least 10 robust, classic books that are meaningful to them. During morning duty, I often see students reading the books the Foundation has provided through this project. Parents recently shared the following comments:

"We love the books and we look forward to reading them at bedtime. They have helped give (my daughter) a lot of confidence in reading and in her pronunciation of the words when she's reading. The books are priceless because of the lasting gift they provide."

"We've been lucky to be able to receive the books. (My son) would come home and read to his sister, but his most prized possession was The Giving Tree. He still keeps this one close and will continue to read it more than the others. He helps her try to read them too."

"(My son) loved The Snowy Day. I added it to his holiday books. We read it during Christmas time. He gets a story every night before bed. He's just disappointed that it doesn't snow here."

So far this year, we have finished up some books from last year's project as well as books that were added this year. We've read, studied, and enjoyed The Snowy Day, The Shortcut, The Lorax, and The Giving Tree. Spring will find us utilizing two of my very favorites - Harold and the Purple Crayon and Blueberries for Sal. My students, their families, and I thank you for your continued support of this program!

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