

Pre-Kindergarten Special Helper Program

Last year, I started a program called Special Helper in my Pre-Kindergarten room. I picked two students per month and each student would be Special Helper for two weeks. The child who was the helper could bring in their parents and/or family for all or part of our school day. Families were welcome to share a favourite story, make snack, create or teach the students something (game, activity, craft, etc.) or show us something special about their family. The Special Helper student also had the privilege of doing important jobs in the classroom.

The response from my families was phenomenal! I received full participation from all my families throughout the year. The parents appreciated my flexible schedule by allowing them to come in whenever it worked best for them during the two weeks. I even had a few families come more than one day! There was a range of activities the families did with the children including: making special snacks such as cookies and cupcakes, reading favourite stories, painting shaving cream pictures, decorating piggy banks, creating musical maracas, colouring egg cartoon caterpillars and making cards to name a few.

The result of this program built an inviting and comfortable environment for my families to come in and spend time with all the children. They had a chance to feel empowered and could showcase their talents for us. It was definitely a confidence boost for many parents in the program. The benefits extended to the children and they would recall the special day their family came to school. I created a bulletin board in my classroom to showcase the Special Helper activities for the families to view with their children.

I will definitely continue this wonderful program. It was a great way to build communication and establish a relationship with all my families.

Submitted by: Krystal Fahlman

