

Sue Houlihan - AmeriCorps-Fall 2003-2004

Lincoln School and Summer Playgrounds

When presented with the opportunity to volunteer in the Dubuque School System I anticipated many new challenges. However, what I did not anticipate was how quickly I became absorbed in the delivery of quality educational instruction and intervention by the Lincoln staff. My orientation to the school was personally delivered by the principle, Dr. Loewen, and I felt very welcomed. I began working in the behavioral classroom, and I was awestruck by the instructor's delivery of expectations, and corrections, to the class all while instructing the students in math and reading. I had an amazing introduction to a group of caring professions upon whom tremendous responsibilities have been placed, and they do not disappoint.

I spent many afternoons with this happy group working on their latter names and sounds

One of my initial objectives was to offer support in the introduction of a new program called *Books Before Breakfast*. This program encompassed all grade levels, and gave the participants the opportunity to read alone, or read with a partner. We met all those objectives. Many older students began to enjoy reading to younger readers, and as the younger readers expertise increased they began to read to the older students.

We had a great time in the "Books For Breakfast" program.