

Abby Keppler- AmeriCorps Summer 2003

Farley Library

At the Farley Library I completed my second 450 hour term with AmeriCorps during the summer of 2003. At the library I was involved in different reading programs provided for children. My main responsibility was to plan and provide reading programs for children of all ages.

“Read with Dad” was a program for dad’s and their 3-6 year old children. I can’t tell you how amazing it was to see the dads interacting with the children. They played games together, read books, and usually did an art activity. It was a good turn out each night.

Dads and kids work on noodle necklaces during a Read with Dad night.



I share the Very Hungry Caterpillar puppet story at one of the Family Storyteller nights.



Family Storyteller was a program designed for families with children 18 months to 3 years. We held three different nights, each based on a popular children’s book. Families attended and listened to a book and did many other fun activities together. I was able to present parents with information on how to maximize reading with their young children.

One of the ongoing programs this summer was Growing in the Garden. It lasted 10 weeks and gave children the opportunity to learn more about gardening. We were even able to plant a garden at the library. Each week we did activities and games related to gardening along with reading a book. The children really enjoyed the program. You could see a sense of accomplishment and pride when they watched their garden grow.



The children were able to harvest some of the produce by the end of summer.

This experience has given me great experience for my future career as a teacher. When I am a teacher, I will be creating and planning lessons for each subject. I found that it takes a very long time to plan for different activities. I realized that the time is worth taking because the programs become a success. I was very pleased with my AmeriCorps experience.