



Educator Feedback Survey Summary



A 2 page survey was conducted in April 2014. All 5 current sites completed at least 1 survey with one center completing 3 and one school completing 2 for a total of 8 surveys. All who completed were the classroom implementers.

1. How **effective** was Raising A Reader in the following areas this year?
 - a. Increasing the amount of time and frequency that parents shared books with their children
 - b. Increasing children's interest in books
 - c. Encouraging parent/child interactions
 - d. Improving pre-literacy skills (*book handling, print concepts, reading comprehension*)
 - e. Creating or maintaining a relationship with the Gunn Public Library
 - f. Improving kindergarten readiness
 - g. increasing **your** preparation, understanding, and enthusiasm for sharing books with young children
 - h. supporting family engagement and the home-school connection at your site

	Very Effective	Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not at all Effective	NA
a.	3	3	1		1
b.	4	3	1		
c.	3	2	3		
d.	4	3	1		
e.	2	1	3	1	1
f.	3	4	1		
g.	5	2	1		
h.	4	2	2		

Comments: *Most of my parents engage in reading with their child, however there are some who do not at all.*

2. What was your **favorite part** of Raising A Reader this year? Children enjoyed getting the bag of books
 - *Knowing the children are having books read to them at home. When we have shared reading children will say I read that book at home then I ask them to tell me about the book.*
 - *Seeing the excitement on the faces of my students when they get a new bag and having them tell me about their favorite story.*
 - *Watching children "read" the books.*
 - *The children talking about the books.*
 - *My favorite part was when Maria came in to read a book to the children.*
 - *Hearing the parents talk about how their child would bring them the red bags wanting them to read to them.*
 - *... we believe that pre-reading skills opens the door to become a successful reader. Collaborative efforts in connecting home and school with books, the kids have mastered matching, rhyming, letter skills, concepts of print, and language skills and other pre-reading skills. My favorite part of Raising a Reader Program rely on their faces that tell the story. They light up as a story is read or retold with joy and enthusiasm. They are able to respond to the "Wh" questions as the motivation and the joy of reading manifests center front. Their exposure to quality books laid the foundation for the motivation, the enjoyment of reading, and critical thinking skills. Knowing that by guiding our little ones to engage in pre-reading skills for pleasure and academic process, the gains we will see as our kids become older students will be even greater than anticipated. Truly reading can always be fun.*
3. **Why** is RAR important to you & to the families at your site? How has it made a difference in your lives?
 - *Exposes children and families to reading*
 - *Love that children can touch and hold books without them tearing or falling apart. Very few of my children have books at home this program allows them to have books.*
 - *It offers me the tools and means to enable my parents to take an active role in their child's education and development.*
 - *Gives opportunity for books in home & parent/child interaction.*
 - *Raising A Reader gives the children a variety of books to read. The children are excited about their favorite books.*
 - *It is important to me because it increases the parent child interaction. I think it has increased the amount of time the parents interact with their child/children.*

- It increases the parent/child involvement and social skills. It increased the children interest in books in the classroom, they like to be read to more.
- ... the staff and the parents have the power to boost our preschooler's learning potential simply by making books an integral part of their lives. We believe that reading to our preschoolers is a good thing and very important. RAR implements our reading program. Our preschoolers are exposed to the merits of reading which includes: (1) building a stronger relationship with parents as they snuggle up with a good bedtime story or a it could be just a quiet time spent together with their child; (2) a stepping stone to a higher aptitude of learning in general; and lastly, (3) adding speech and language skills to their daily repertoire.
Differences sited at our center using RAR books with our preschoolers are:
 - Now more Exposed to quality literature
 - Are Expose to the concept of print and pre-reading skills
 - Reading now conveys a message to them
 - They pick up a book more freely or independently
 - They recalls facts and detail centered about stories and books
 - They share stories, props, and puppets with parents

4. Please rate your satisfaction with the:

Choose one for each:	quality of the RAR materials:					condition of the RAR materials:				
	Excel lent	Very Good	Good	Poor	NA	gently used, good condition	~25% need replacing	~50% need replacing	75% or more need replacing	NA
RAR Books	3	4	1			4	3			1
RAR Book Bags	5	1	2			5	1			2
Other RAR Materials	3	2	2		1	4	3			1

Comments: Everything is in good condition

5. Please rate each potential **challenge** to implementing RAR:

	0- Not an issue	1- Minor, but manageable	2- Major, interfering with implementing	3- Critical, unable to implement properly	NA
Staff turnover	8				
Other Site issues	7				1
Not enough time	4	4			
No parent interest	3	2	3		
Need more RAR materials	5	2	1		
Need more RAR support	5	2		1	
Other:		1- Handouts and activities associated with the books			

6. Please give more information about the **biggest challenges** with Raising A Reader this year: (we want to help!)
- There are some parents who are unwilling to work with their children and don't supervise. This results in lost and/or destroyed books.
 - Getting the books back in a timely manner. Missing books from the bag.
 - We have to actually beg the parents to return the books in a timely manner. Getting parents to understand the importance of keeping the books in good condition.
 - Making sure the parents return the bags so that we will be able to give them back out.
 - Our biggest challenge at [our site] is getting parents to return the books. WE do use incentives at a cost to us.
7. Do you have any RAR ideas or tips that you'd like to share with the other RAR providers?
- Locate sponsors to assist with providing books to families
 - Add on a book program, for example, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for parents
 - Add activities for parents at the Library once a month for parents and children enrolled in program
 - Order books by thematic units based on the Creative Curriculum
 - Sponsor a book donation drive; book give-a-way day
 - Sponsor a book parade –DR. Seuss' Birthday
 - Consider a separate date to deliver the blue bags from the Week of the Young Child

Our goal is for every site to implement Raising A Reader from at least **September - May** each year. We understand that individual site needs may vary. Please let us know how you want to continue to offer RAR next year.

8. We are interested in participating in the program again in 2014-15. We would like to launch our RAR program in:
 0- August
 6- September *Comments: By starting in the middle of Sept it will allow children to get use to school before sending bags home.*
 0- October
 2- We do not want to offer RAR in 2014-2015. If not interested, please tell us why not? i. Books are returned unread. ii.I think it's a good idea but it's ultimately up to the parents whether the program is successful.
Comments: i. Children are young. Parents are not very interested.
9. Below is the list of services and support that Partnership staff provides to sites. Please rate how useful each item has been & check off if you would like more of that item in the future.

	Very Useful	Little bit Useful	Not at all Useful	Not used yet	Interest in future?	NA
Implementer training: orientation	5	1	1		0	1
Implementer training: refresher	5	1	1		0	1
Resource packet/materials: modifying interventions for special needs classroom	4			1	0	3
Resource packet/materials: parent engagement ideas	7				0	1
Resource packet/materials: parent workshop packets	7				0	1
Forms: Monthly Reports	6	1			0	1
Forms: Book Rotation Logs	7				0	1
Forms: Parent Materials (Workshop sign in sheets, reminder letters)	6	1			0	1
Forms: Reporting Schedule	7				0	1
<i>Partnership staff support:</i>						
Reminder e-mails for Monthly reports & book logs	6			1	0	1
Monthly Reports & book log pick up	7				0	1
Responses to implementers' questions or concerns	6	1			0	1
Site visits	3	2		1	0	2
Coordinate Bluebag Library Event	6	1			0	1
Providing Inventory (books, bags, charts)	7				0	1

Comments: Great program children look forward to getting bags each week. Partnership staff do a good job.

Summary:

From responses above, RAR was most effective at 'increasing **your** preparation, understanding, and enthusiasm for sharing books with young children.' It was least effective at 'Creating or maintaining a relationship with the Gunn Public Library.' The library component continues to be a challenge, but since that is not a weekly focus, the true greatest challenge is getting parents on board & understanding the importance & value of building pre-literacy skills. Many sites expressed that is can be hard to get parents to attend workshops, but also to simply return books & actively engage in the book rotation.

Recommendations:

- 1) In order to meet parents where they are, the program could really benefit from offering a parent participation incentive. In some other counties, **a gift card is awarded to parents for attending all four parent workshops**. Since ideally the workshops help communicate the benefits of actively participating on a weekly basis, it makes sense to provide such an incentive to this particular component.
- 2) In addition, in order to make it more feasible for parents to attend four, more than four workshops should be offered so a parent could 'afford' to miss one.
- 3) Coordinator Staff must ensure implementers commitment & clearly understand pre-literacy best practices. For instance: sending same books home again is intentional & children benefit from this practice. Reminding teachers that the program will only work with their enthusiasm, excitement & support. Do they ask parents which was their favorite book, which was the child's favorite book? If teachers are not committed & excited, should not be offering program.