

Program Effectiveness

The Homework Mastery Center one-on-one reading model is a scientifically based, best practice approach that uses the strength of individual instructional processes to improve the reading skill of disadvantage and under-skilled readers. A strong skills instructional program designed to meet the diverse needs of the learner supports our lessons. We tutor any child in grades K-12 who live in Detroit, MI. Our goal is to help students who are below grade level in reading or math to reach their full potential. We focus on the children on the northeast side of Detroit in order to prevent them from being caught in the cycle of failure. Research shows that if children fall behind in reading by the end of third grade, they will continue to have learning difficulties. We believe that we can help a child reach grade level in reading and math with the support of tutoring to fill the gap.

The National Reading Panel(NRP) Report emphases, in the scientific research based publication, *Put Reading First: The Research Building Block for Teaching Children to Read*, the importance of focused strategic instruction on the six reading dimension: Phonetic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, Text Comprehension and Motivation. The overall focus of the programming at The Homework Mastery Center covers these six dimensions of reading instruction determined by the National Reading Panel Report(2000) as how to successfully teach children to read. Depending upon student needs, any one of these dimensions can be emphasized. Lesson plans include the CIERA strategies (such as blending, segmenting) and guided reading and the Michigan standards for Reading (BT) and Reading Specialist endorsement (BR)(phonics and comprehension.

Our math core curriculum provides for the students to attain a solid foundation of mathematical, skills, knowledge and understanding. This foundation is necessary for continual growth and success throughout the academic and personal lives of the students. The students are expected to complete a developmentally and sequentially appropriate curriculum aligned with the Detroit Public School Curriculum principles and standards for school mathematics and the Michigan Mathematics Curriculum Framework. The students will learn in a supportive environment that

enables them to develop confidence in their ability to do mathematics, make mathematical connections, communicate mathematically and apply a variety of strategies to solve problems. All students will use appropriate technology to learn and apply mathematics. All students will have the opportunity to assess their own mathematical understandings. The process of assessment will be congruent with the curriculum and will include a variety of assessment techniques.

The Homework Mastery program produces results. We have only been opened for a short time, but the students who have enrolled in our program have demonstrated gains as measured by national assessments. Of the 100 or so students that have attended our program all have improved in either math or reading.

Listed below are some examples:

Grade 6 student enrolled on 6/26/2003 math score was GE (Grade Equivalent) 3.2 and Percentile Rank (PR) 3, reading scores was 5th grade, NCE 10.4. His test scores on 7/23/2003 were math GE 3.3 PR 6 reading was 6th grade NCE 17.3.

Grade 4 student enrolled on 7/1/2003 math score was GE 2.7 and Percentile Rank (PR) 14, reading scores was 4th grade, NCE 27.2. Her test scores on 8/1/2003 were math GE 2.7 PR15 reading was 5th grade, NCE 28.2.

Grade 6 student enrolled on 6/24/2003 math score was GE 2.4 and Percentile Rank (PR) 1, reading scores was 4th grade, NCE 1.0. His test scores on 7/30/2003 was math GE 3.0 PR 4 reading was 5th grade, NCE 13.13

The Homework Mastery Center assesses its impact on student achievement, in part, by analyzing Normal Curve Equivalent gains (NCE) as measured by test performance on a nationally recognized standardized assessment, Star Math. Review of the NCE scores assumes that NCE

gain of greater than zeros between the tests are indicative of academic growth.

We are multiplying resources by developing well trained volunteer tutors who assist in meeting the individual needs of as many students as possible. The Homework Mastery Center is demonstrating that it is a well-organized program that can attract and sustain volunteers. Our volunteers have diverse backgrounds-- they are from Wayne County Community College, Wayne State University, Family Independence Agency and others who find out about this ministry through current volunteers who feel they are making a difference for children. During the nine months of operation our experience continues to be very positive. The Detroit Public Schools believe so much in the need for tutoring and the difference our program is making in the lives of the children we service, that they have put our program in two of their schools. The Parent Network, Children Aid Society and Spaulding for children continue to affirm our program as they have added us to their list of resources for parents. These organizations refer parents to our services.

During the nine months we have been opened 10 instructors and 4 volunteers made it possible to provide 150 hours of tutoring per week for at-risk students on the eastside of Detroit. The number of student served averaged 45 each week for two hours for 36 weeks during the school year. We started our center with only one employee and within nine month we now have a total of 14 tutors because our center is meeting a serious educational need.

Evaluation

Upon enrolling in the program the student is tested in Math and Reading to identify the student's grade levels and specific learning needs. The Instructor then develops a curriculum aligned to the Detroit Public School curriculum standards. For each student, progress is measured throughout the program. Regular assessments are made and testing is every three months. Students' performance and progress reports are reported to the school administrator, classroom teacher and parent. Upon completion, post-testing is used to demonstrate the impact of the Homework Mastery program. Pre and post -program testing includes use of a nationally recognized standardized assessment, Star Math for math, and the Detroit Public School standardized