

## **Incentives and Prizes for Babies, Toddlers & Preschoolers**

### **1. How to Play the ABC Way: ABC Cards to promote early literacy (letter knowledge), family involvement, and using senses to explore the world.**

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- The “How to Play the ABC Way” Cards are distributed in all programs for preschoolers through kindergarten. Children and families complete the ABC card. The instructions are fairly straight forward, but some verbal instruction may be needed. The child is asked to look around for things that he/she “sees, hears, feels, touches, and reads about.” The child can then state/write a word that begins with each letter of the alphabet. For example, if a child sees the **ocean** on a family trip, the parent or caregiver can write **ocean** next to the letter - **O**.
- We had copies of the cards available on our SRP display table for **any child** in this age group (babies, toddlers, and preschoolers up to entering kindergarten) to pick up when in the library. A child did not necessarily have to attend a program to get a card to fill out. In this way, you are offering a passive family literacy program that meets every family’s schedule. These numbers can then be added to your SRP statistics.
- A child can turn in the ABC card anytime and by a final date that you designate (e.g. the day of your SRP finale) to receive a gift bag (designated on the bag as girl or boy or generic).
- Teen volunteers can stamp and put stickers on white paper bags with handles. Stuff the goodie prize bags with anything you can think of such as hand sanitizer, books, glue sticks, crayons and markers, coloring pages, band aids, etc. Use your imagination and anything you might have lying around (even those little prizes from past SRPs)!
- We state that **ONLY ONE** ABC card may be completed and turned in per child. There may be more than one child who turns in an ABC card per family.
- Save all the completed ABC Cards for statistical purposes to include on your final SRP evaluation. If a child would like to keep his/her card as a summer memento, just make sure to keep a record of **HOW MANY** were completed for this passive family literacy program.
- It is very interesting and fun to see some of the words that the children come up with!

## **2. “I Pledge that I Read...” Slips:**

- At each program for babies, toddlers, and/or preschoolers, each parent/caregiver can complete a ticket that says **“I pledge that I read to my child at least 15 minutes every day this week,”** which will include name and age of child and phone # of parent/guardian. This is a simple and easy honor system program to gather statistics and have families of little ones engaged in the Summer Reading Program. A family may only put in ONE ticket per week. The slips are distributed before or after each program, filled out by the parent or caregiver and put into a large jug/box on that day.
- A drawing to select the winner will come from the slips in the jug/box. The drawing can be held anytime you choose. We had two drawings, one on the last day of July (for the July entry slips) and one on the last day of August (August entry slips).
- A Family Prize Package is given to the July winner and the August winner (or however you want to include this in your calendar of events). You may decide to only hold one drawing. The Family Prize Package includes a lot of wonderful items for the child, family, and adults: books, sunscreen, toys, bubbles, games, movie gifts cards, ice cream certificates, DVDs, etc. **Try to solicit donations from local businesses. Use leftover prizes from past years.**

## **Gathering Numbers for SRP Evaluation and Statistics:**

- Count the number of “How to Play the ABC Way!” submitted to include in your final SRP evaluation and write-up as a family literacy program.
- Tally the “I Pledge ....” slips to calculate how many minutes your youngest patrons (babies through K) have read. This is an easy way to get an estimated number (minutes or hours) for those children who are too young to be recording books and minutes on their own and for their parents/caregivers who do not want to be bothered with filling everything out, which can be time-consuming. This would be a simple calculation of 15 minutes per week (105 minutes per child) times the number of weeks for which you are collecting statistics.

**Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or you would like me to e-mail the templates:**

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