

# Mother Read/Father Read Literacy Program

## Wiggins School District RE 50 J

### Wiggins, CO



COLORADO  
Department of Education

It's never too early to encourage family-school-community partnering. Staff in Wiggins School District understand this. For many years, preschool and elementary staff have worked together to implement the Mother Read/Father Read Literacy Program. The goal of the program is to engage adults in reading with their children.

Adults and children attend six to 12 weekly sessions that last approximately two hours each. Food, child care, and all materials are provided. The program is extremely beneficial for children from birth through third grade. Families of all reading levels and languages can benefit from this literacy program.

Wiggins School District held two different sessions this past year. One group included elementary age children and families who spoke English as a second language. Books and materials were provided in the families' home language. The second group was comprised of preschool age children and families, although many parents had older children as well.

Mother Read/Father Read focuses on the following themes: Expressing Needs and Feelings, Establishing Independence, Understanding What Families Value, Sharing/Cooperating, and Self-Possibilities. These themes allow families to interact, engage, share, and support each other in a variety of ways. During each session parents practice reading the books for the week and discussing the following literacy components:

- Literacy as Experience – Connecting text/themes to personal context
- Literacy as Art – Reading role model skills aloud
- Literacy as Process – Adult literacy skill development including reading and writing

Families receive reading materials and a reading log each week. Families note any reading conducted with their child or any reading conducted by the adult only. Additional story extenders are included which provide fun and easy activities to increase engagement between adult and child. Adults return the books and log each week.

Wiggins' Preschool Director shares: "Adults develop relationships with each other, which often results in families expressing their desire for the sessions to continue. This outcome is completely opposite of the concerns at the beginning of the sessions for some families – which is the commitment in signing up for at least six sessions."