

Motheread/Fatheread Colorado Institute



Welcome to the first edition of the Motheread/Fatheread Colorado newsletter! This quarterly newsletter will help to keep all of you across the state informed about what's going on in the world of Motheread. You can look forward to information and resources to encourage you in your work and to help you in providing services for families in your community. I applaud the work that you do each and every day. Thanks for being part of our team!

I was introduced to Motheread through an El Paso County Family Literacy program in 2009. In 2012 I joined the team as a national trainer and have met many of you through our Motheread Institutes and Story Exploring trainings. I assumed the position of state coordinator in February, 2018. I look forward to working with each of you to further this important work across the state.

Debbie Butkus

Motheread/Fatheread Colorado Program Coordinator

Motheread/Fatheread Parents Increase Literacy-Promoting Behaviors

The year-end data has been compiled for the 2017-2018 program year. Of those sharing data with us, 19 sites provided 27 series of classes for families across the state, serving 494 adults and 1,280 children. We were in schools in the Denver metro area, Morgan County, Colorado Springs and Hayden. We also were in early care and education centers or Head Start in Colorado Springs, Fort Morgan and Brush, libraries in Ignacio and Commerce City. In addition, sessions were held all year long in the Southern Ute Detention Center in Ignacio. Just in 13 of these series, a total of 528 hours of home reading recorded! Considering data from 15 series, pre- and post- parent surveys there was, on average, a 22% increase in parent behaviors that support their child's literacy development. That is incredible! These changes occur with the offering of between 6 and 10 sessions. Our goal to continue to be diligent in collecting the data that shows the impact of the work that you do! Parents have expressed their appreciation of their experience in your sessions.

*"My husband always liked to read, but he forgot about reading with all the busyness of becoming a parent and working. But we went to the library together as a family as part of this program because I wanted to find a book that I liked. He decided to take up reading again taking out *The Last Opportunity* by Guahuteoc which is written by his favorite author from Mexico."*

"It was awesome. It helped me and showed me how to read with my daughter. I'm not sure how it works, but her reading score went from "L" to "O" during the fall."

Your first step to get the ball rolling for a new program year is to submit an Implementation Plan. Contact Debbie at debbie@coloradohumanities.org to receive one to complete and submit to qualify for possible book stipends and other support.

A Facebook group has been created to facilitate communication between those who have been trained in Motherread or Story Exploring. This will be our place to share resources and ideas that have worked in our programs and to get answers to questions about using the Motherread or Story Exploring curriculum. Contact Debbie to receive an invitation to be included in this new group!



Research Brief Sharing Results

The Corporation for National and Community Service has posted a Research Brief sharing the results of the Colorado Humanities Motherread/Fatheread Study conducted in Morgan County in 2013-2017. This study found a statistically significant change in parental behavior surrounding literacy practices and in their preschool children's rate of growth as measured by the Teaching Strategies Gold score in the language domain.

"I think this is a great program and an excellent tool these moms are taking home. They were very participative and practiced their vocabulary, writing skills and descriptive language. It was really good."

Quote from Iliana Renteria after her first session.

Districts Co-Host Institute

A Motherread Institute held at Rose Hill Elementary in Commerce City on June 6 – 8 was sponsored by Colorado Humanities and co-hosted by Adams 14 and St. Vrain Valley School Districts. Twenty-three enthusiastic participants spent three days together learning about and experiencing the Motherread approach. Each left equipped with the skills to bring this program to their own school or agency. Amongst the participants we had staff and volunteers from schools, community-based organizations and early care and education centers. Five of the participants had previously experienced Motherread themselves as a parent participant.

Here are a few comments from Institute participants:

"Making us participate and do the lessons and create them was a great way of helping me visualize how I would implement my own sessions. You thought about everything and helped me answer questions I didn't even think I had."

"I like the ESL part as well as the extensions (Story Extenders) because my community will benefit with these new skills. The curriculum is so easy to follow and very concrete."

"I think it is a very complete curriculum because it gave me all the tools to use on every single activity."

Motheread/Fatheread® Institute Offered in Colorado Springs

Our next Motheread/Fatheread Institute will be offered in collaboration with the El Paso County Alliance for Kids in Colorado Springs on February 6 – 8 at the Tim Gill Center. Those who are interested in facilitating groups of adults in this exciting program may attend the Institute at no cost to become certified to offer Motheread/Fatheread Colorado sessions. Registration is now open. Go to our website at www.coloradohumanities.org to register. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie at debbie@coloradohumanities.org.

Recognition by the Colorado Department of Education and the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement of Education (SACPIE)

Lisa Trautwein of Wiggins Preschool nominated Motheread/Fatheread Colorado as a promising practice to engage families in support of student learning. On October 4 Motheread/Fatheread was highlighted as a promising early childhood practice at the Family and School Partnership in Education Month Kickoff Event at the PACE Center in Parker. Over 100 were in attendance to hear about how Motheread/Fatheread strengthens partnerships between schools and the home resulting in increased parent involvement in their child's literacy development and improved language skills for the child. Thank you, Lisa, for being a Motheread/Fatheread champion!

2018-2019 Program Year

Our 2018-19 program year is off to a great start with 10 programs currently offering sessions and 13 more in the planning process. Of the 23 facilitators who were trained in the June Institute, 22 are either currently implementing or planning for sessions in the near future. Programs are being offered from Wiggins to Ignacio, Glenwood Springs to Colorado Springs. Colorado Humanities is thrilled to support each of you as you bring Motheread/Fatheread to your communities. The enthusiasm is exciting as new and experienced facilitators start up programs.

"Our first session went great! Moms had a great time, and were very engaged. The session went on for two hours and we had some time to practice with their children. I am so happy."

-Iliana, Raising a Reader

A new fact sheet has been created to help explain this program to others.

Presentation at Migrant Education Conference

National Motheread trainer Kim Turner demonstrated Motheread/Fatheread Colorado at the Migrant Education Conference in Colorado Springs on November 8. Many families for whom English is not their first language are being served through Motheread/Fatheread Colorado programs. Sessions are provided in English, Spanish, or bilingually. Parent group facilitators support the adults as they reinforce each other's reading and writing skills. At home, they, in turn, can support their children by enjoying more stories through shared reading.

School Districts Supporting Motheread/Fatheread Colorado

We congratulate two school districts who are implementing parent sessions using district resources. St. Vrain Valley School District provides Motheread/Fatheread Colorado parent sessions at all five of their elementary schools this program year. District resources support the purchasing of books and other costs to bring this program to the families in their community. Greeley School District 6 has also used district resources to provide parent sessions at Scott Elementary. All of the facilitators for these sessions were trained in the Motheread/Fatheread Institute last June. Motheread/Fatheread Colorado is a great way to support parent engagement at your schools!



THE DENVER FOUNDATION

