Acting Out at the Library

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Are you frustrated with the turn-out of family events at your library? Do you still have relatively poor attendance even though you advertise food and a performer? Well why not invite parents to see their child perform at the library. “Acting Out at the Library” is a program that involved preschoolers performing stories at the library. It brought out not only parents, but also grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins for a very special evening.
Acting Out at the Library

I. Goal - Bring at-risk families into the library for a positive, memorable experience.

II. Idea - Have the children act out stories. Parents love to see their children perform.

III. Preparation
   A. Collaborating with the School
      i. Travel time for parents
      ii. Travel arrangements for families
      iii. Bedtime for children
   B. Incentive for Teaching Staff
      i. Competition between classrooms
      ii. Prizes – benefit individuals, not their classrooms
   C. Inform Parents
      i. Initial notice
      ii. Invitation
      iii. Reminder
   D. Book Selection
      i. Number of characters
      ii. Many opportunities for children to speak or move
      iii. Props that work well for the age group of the children
   E. Costumes and Props
      i. Keep simple
      ii. No cost

IV. Practice
   A. Classroom
      i. Explanation of Project – teachers and students
      ii. Expectations of Teachers
         a. Read and practice
         b. Talk up the performance with students and parents
   B. On stage
      i. Lessen stage fright
      ii. Use props

V. Performance
   A. Staff Needed
      i. Set –up / Clean-Up
      ii. Welcome table
      iii. Buffet meal – replenish
      iv. Greeters / Servers / Crowd control
      v. Family reading area
      vi. Performance

VI. Response from Participants
   A. Families
   B. Teachers

VII. Budget
   A. Food, drinks and supplies
   B. Giveaway books for kids to own
   C. School bus for class visits
   D. Prizes - for the competition and door prize