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January 12, 2009

David Cottle,
The National Director,
Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange (ICE),
Box #61143
Kensington RPO,
Calgary, AB T2N 4S6.

Dear Mr. Cottle,

Thank you for your generous donation of children's books entitled "The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water" which we received in May 2008. As a result, we were able to provide these books to preschool children with communication delays, to families who have limited access to books, and to a number of families from a variety of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The books were given out with suggestions for enhancing language and literacy development incorporating the family-friendly "Reading Together" materials on your website. ECE teaching staff also received "Learning that Lasts" information from the ICE website.

I am enclosing some samples of follow-up activities that parents and teachers shared with us. It was interesting to note that the topic of "fear" and "bravery" generated significant conversation from young children, often beyond the expectations of the caregiver. One classroom teacher made a book that each child in the class contributed to using a sentence opener "It is brave to try..." Parents commented that they practised telling the story with "an animated voice" and that "it was a simple story with a solid message" that was "very well illustrated" and "captivated the attention of the children." A social worker used this story to discuss fear with children who have autism, and found this a concrete way to broach a sometimes abstract and often difficult topic.

Once again, thank you for allowing us to participate in this very worthwhile program which promotes literacy for young children who are at risk.

Sincerely yours,

Gabriele S. Croft, B.A., D.S.P., CCC-Sp/L,
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