WHES: Library of Things

Delrose M. Morgan

LIBS 658: Knowledge Resources: Planning, Selecting & Managing Collections

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Gail K. Dickinson, PhD

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Library of Things

This collection of things is designed for 2nd thru 6th graders who are assessed in various content areas. Each kit is designed to reinforce the STEM content areas and to reach out to the school's population who would be experiencing homelessness or financial hardships.

1. **Item/Kit Name: Color me legos**

   Items: lego sets for youth and adults

   Audience: 5th & 6th Graders and adults

   Justification: Legos would help to develop the students' problem-solving skills, organization, and planning skills, as well as literacy skills. In addition to addressing the STEM needs of the students, parents would be encouraged to participate in the use of the kits. This would build parent involvement with the school and the children.

2. **Item/Kit Name: If the Shoe Fits**

   Items: Shoe Magazines, shart paper, markers, colored pencils, crayons, index cards, shoe patterns

   Audience: 3rd Graders

   Justification: This kit would focus on teaching the children problem-solving skills and organizational skills, which is essential for STEM research. In addition to STEM, this fun activity would include art design and sorting.

3. **Item/Kit Name: Microscopes and Slide sets**

   Items: microscopes, animal and plant cells, notebooks, pencils

   Audience: 4th & 5th Graders

Justification: With the microscopes sets, fourth and fifth-grade students will apply the science process skills, and then be able to communicate the data they gather. This is important to the STEM experience, being able to gather data then share it with an audience.

4. Item/Kit Name: Cells

   Items: play-doh, styrofoam, toothpicks, markers, lego pieces

   Audience: 4th thru 6th graders

   Justification: The upper graders will apply the needed problem-solving and creative thinking skills to design and build an animal or plant cell.

5. Item/Kit name: Tech Tub

   Items: calculators, iPads, Chromebooks, laptops

   Audience: All ages

   Justification: Based on the 2014-2018 U.S Census data, Portsmouth's household population with computers was 87% and households with broadband internet subscriptions were 76%. Having the technology available for students who fit in the "don't have" access is important to completing research. In addition, calculators are used on all state and district-mandated assessments, having prior experience with the use of the calculators is important.

6. Item/Kit name: Financial Literacy Board Games

   Items: fake money, dice, pawns, boards, cards

   Audience: 5th 6th graders, Adults

   Justification: Portsmouth's environmental scan shows that the population poverty rate exceeds the national and state average. Therefore it is important to teach

both adults and students the importance of money, budgeting, and how to problem-solve. The board games would teach the much-needed math and life skills as the participants have fun learning.

7. Item/Kit name: Weather kit

   Items: construction paper, glue, several thermometers, toothpicks, scissors

   Audience: 3rd Graders

   Justification: The school's collection analysis determined that we lacked STEM materials. I believe that emphasizing the skills of the youngest group to take the SOL is important to improving our Math and Science scores.

8. Item/Kit name: Shoes

   Items: gently worn or new women shoes

   Audience: females 25-34 years of age

   Justification: In 2018, Portsmouth was reported to have had the highest poverty rate in the Hampton roads area (Nextdoor, 2018). Women and children were found to be the highest groups in this category. Providing shoes to women who are experiencing hardships would help them in improving their professional look.

9. Item/Kit Name: Non-perishable food items

   Items: can goods

   Audience: children

   Justification: Due to the increase in homelessness in the Portsmouth area, providing assistance with food would help the students whose homes may be without food. By feeding the children, it helps with their academic and behavioral performance.

10. Item/Kit Name: Toiletries

   Items: toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, body soap, wipes, combs, brushes

   Audience: All students

   Justification: Students perform better when their appearances are not at the
   center of attention and being ridiculed by their peers. Many students live in
   homeless shelters or situations, the kits would provide them with the opportunity
   to clean themselves, even in a school bathroom.

Reflection

Westhaven's collection analysis describes the STEM resources as extremely limited. These criteria were used in determining what library things would be selected. With limited access to STEM resources and poor science, math, and reading test results, it is important that the materials be made accessible to the students. The students must have hands-on experience in order to tap into their problem-solving and critical thinking skills abilities.

In addition, due to the homelessness and poverty-stricken population that we often serve, it is equally important to assist in whatever means possible with their personal needs. Maslow's hierarchy of needs, physiological needs, states that when these needs are not met, individuals will not be satisfied or motivated to perform everyday tasks(Mcleod, 2020). Many students' behavior and academic performance are a result of the lack of food, clean clothes, shelter, and poor health. This continues to worsen in our society that is plagued with an increase in unemployment, homelessness, and disease.

To conclude, the library of things resources were selected based on the collection scan and analysis that showed a need for STEM materials that meet the needs of the student population, as well as the overall population.

Sources

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