



REACH...

Respect parent roles and their diversity

Engagement, not just involvement

All families want their children to be successful so **Ask** what they need

Curriculum of the home

Help at home with knowledge and skills

Strategy Name: Family Storyteller

Summary of Strategy: The *Family Storyteller* was developed by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in collaboration with several community partners and Iowa State University Extension. The *Family Storyteller* is aimed at encouraging and training parents to play a vital role in the literacy development of their children. The program was designed within an ecological framework that emphasizes the importance of the home literacy environment to children's early literacy and language development. The program includes six sessions during which families discuss key parent/child reading techniques, watch a video, practice reading, receive a free book, learn about extender activities which enhance the value of the reading, and receive materials to complete the extender activities at home. Parents and children attend workshops together. In this way they will both succeed as they learn new skills and interact as a family.

REACH Link: **Curriculum of the home.**

Scientifically Based Research Level: Level 3 – Promising Studies

Website Links: <http://www.unce.unr.edu/western%20new/SubWebs/FamilyStoryteller/index.htm>.

Target Audience of Strategy: The program is designed for families with preschoolers and beginning readers. It helps all families but is specifically designed for parents who may have limited language skills and few children's books at home.

Training and Follow-up Support for Implementation: A curriculum manual is available which allows the educator to conduct and evaluate the workshop series. Related materials include Spanish copies of the handouts and materials, a video tape with segments corresponding to each session, samples of the extender activity packets, a companion manual with specific literacy and language activities that can be used with children during the workshops, a manual with additional books and activities, and a web site. The *Family Storyteller* materials are available through local Iowa State University Extension family life field specialists. A listing of ISUE family life field specialists is at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/families/staff/pdf/famlife.pdf>

Role of the Educator in Implementation: Educators can reinforce concepts when working with families and/or assist with recruitment and promotion of the program.