Creating a Leveled Book Library

Final Report: CAS-L Winter 2012 Grant
Funds Received: $375.00

Summary
The partnership formed between Taft-Galloway and EMU begins with Taft-Galloway being a more than enthusiastic practicum site for our Reading 310 students. Students spend 30 hours in classrooms, assisting with literacy activities and learning the protocols and procedures for effective literacy instruction. Ms. Toni Griffith, the Literacy Specialist at Taft-Galloway initiated developing a leveled library for literacy instruction. However, in order to make the library accessible to teachers (and thus used), more help was needed.

With the CAS-L grant money of $375 (and an additional $125 from the Teacher Education Department), EMU was able to purchase 250 plastic magazine files to organize the book sets. RDNG 310 students sorted the books, typed labels for the collection, and assembled them into magazine files for easy retrieval and return. Teachers, in turn, are already using the developing leveled library to "put the right book, at the right level, into each student's hands." The books are used for small group instruction, independent reading, assessment, and for teacher modeling on how to use specific reading comprehension strategies -- well-documented best practices for increasing reading achievement in high-poverty schools.

The entire enterprise has been quite a learning experience for the RDNG 310 students. They now have a much better understanding of the types of children's literature needed for successful literacy instruction, as well as how to use this literature most effectively. They also now see what kind of resources are needed to develop a fully functioning leveled library. We ended the year, completing the organization of books needed by Grades K-2. Grades 3-4 will be completed during Summer and Fall of 2012.