
READY, SET, READ!
2014-2015 REPORT



GET ACTIVE!

CHANGE THE GAME!

UCONN
NEAG SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Husky Sport
Department of Educational Leadership
249 Glenbrook Road, Unit 3093
Storrs, Connecticut 06269

READY, SET, READ!



2014-2015 REPORT

Overview 3

Cycles Themes 4

Professional Development 5

Evaluations 6

Teacher Testimonials 7

Looking Ahead 8

*Get Active!
Change the Game!*

Year in Review

Building off a strategic change in 2014, the Ready, Set, Read! program focused our efforts at one Hartford Public School, John C. Clark School, which enabled our staff to engage with students in grades K-3 on a weekly basis. This type of engagement allowed for consistent and strong relationships to flourish. From December 2014 to April 2015, Husky Sport staff read a book with Clark students and did a related activity for 45 minutes per week. The students, teachers, and our staff truly enjoyed how this new style of programming and developed many right relationships!

Overview

Throughout the 5 months of programming, Husky Sport's Ready, Set, Read! Program engaged with more than 125 students in grades K-3, from John C. Clark School. Program Leaders created 18 different lessons, each 45 minutes in length, to incorporate various curriculum techniques from our 'Ready, Set, Read! Toolbox'. These tools helped guide our curriculum development:

Read-Aloud - Physical Activity - Nutrition Technology - Guest Speakers - Crafts

These tools helped to guide our curriculum so that we were able to strengthen the students' understanding of the text, through fun and relatable connections.

For example:

Book: *There's An Alligator Under My Bed*
Activity: Alligator-bait tag with play food

Book: *Yogurt and Cheeses & Ice Cream That Pleases*
Activity: Dairy picture-sorting relay races

Each cycle was driven by a specific theme to help Program Leaders identify and develop quality lessons for each programming session.

Husky Sport lesson plans aim to incorporate the Gradual Release Responsibility Model, where students are challenged under the following motto: "I do, we do, you do" as seen in these pictures (right). Husky Sport reads the book aloud to the students, then individual students are invited to do the activities with the Program Leader's guidance, and finally each student is invited to participate in the activity as a class.

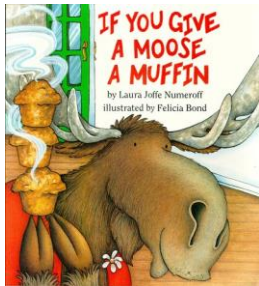


RSR! CYCLE THEMES

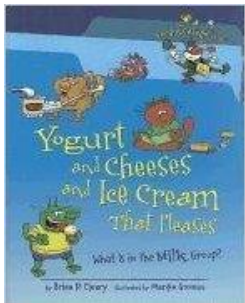
THERE'S AN ALLIGATOR UNDER MY BED



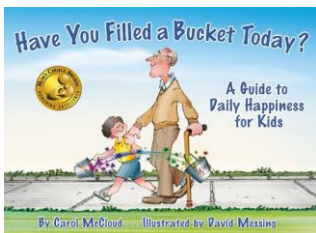
Community Reading



Story Sequence



Non-Fiction



Character Emotions



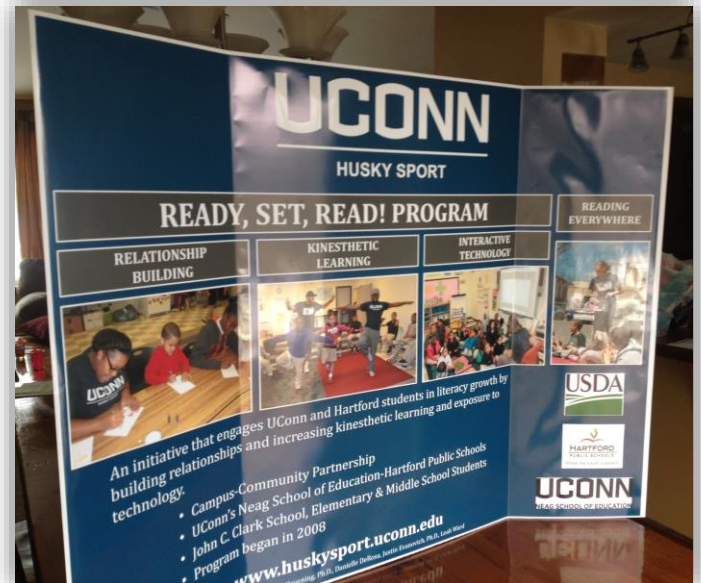
Poetry

Professional Development

Ready, Set, Read! Program Leaders attended monthly professional development trainings that were designed to increase skills through interactive discussions with a focus on learning different ways to connect with children through literacy and sport. The sessions were hosted at UConn in Storrs, and designed to model quality book choices in conjunction with different techniques, such as various components that contribute to a successful read-aloud, piloting new lessons and exposing our staff to new literacy skills through a kinesthetic lens.

2014-2015 Training Topics

- ✓ Connecting Literacy to Physical Activity
- ✓ Discussing Multiple Teaching Styles
- ✓ Incorporating Creative Games & Activities
- ✓ Modeling Lessons
- ✓ Program Evaluation
- ✓ Strengthening Read-Aloud Strategies



*In March 2015, the Assistant Directors presented on the Ready, Set, Read! Program at the **Annual Literacy Essentials Conference**, hosted by Central Connecticut State University, as part of our professional growth.*



*“After reading the book aloud, ask the students, ‘who wants to be the teacher?’ This gets them asking the questions while keeping them engaged. They usually enjoy challenging their peers by asking text-dependent follow-up questions like, ‘**what makes you think so?**’”*

Sandi Bidwell, UConn Alumni and Reading Recovery Teacher

Evaluations

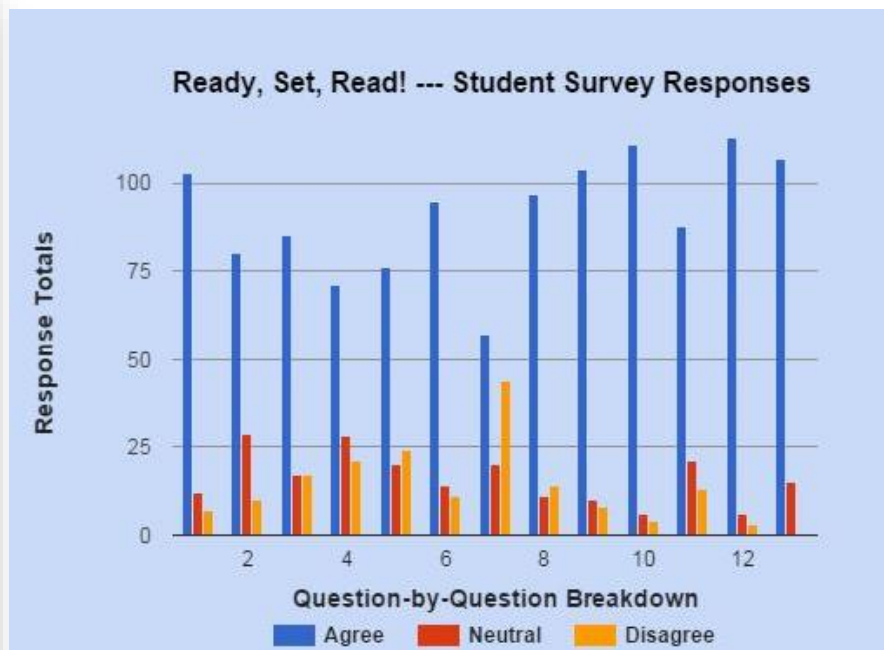
This year, RSR!'s evaluations included interactive student surveys and grade-level teacher focus groups. Through conscious efforts, we strategized on ways to fully engage the students throughout the survey, in an active way, to gather their input around literacy and Husky Sport's involvement with RSR!. Here's what our new approach looked like:

- 122 students from grades K-3 were invited to participate
- Students rotated through 4 physically active stations to answer evaluation questions
 - Stations included obstacle courses and relay races which each ended with a question
 - There was a total of 13 questions; each station asked 3-4 questions
- Using stickers, students answered the questions under three areas:
 - Agree, neutral or disagree using smiley faces ☺ ☹ ☹

Through student feedback, we saw a strong correlation between the children's interest in reading and their interest in reading with Husky Sport staff:

85% of students said 'I like being a good reader' (Question 9)
 90% of students said 'I like when the UConn people read with me' (Question 10) and
 92% of students said 'I like when UConn people visit my class' (Question 13)

Student Feedback



"I thought the way you guys did the survey was phenomenal! They didn't even realize that they were doing a survey; they were outside and moving and it was beautiful out! They loved it! They had so much fun!" 3rd Grade Teacher

Teacher Testimonials

“I like that the activity wasn’t just reading a book it was also physical activities (to help with) comprehension”

2nd Grade Teacher

“My students enjoyed reading the types of books you guys picked from as opposed to the books they are required to read”

2nd Grade Teacher



“I just thought it was a really positive experience, and I think what made it extra special this year was that the activities following or before or after the reading were really creative and kind of tied everything together; addressed foods, got the kids moving, incorporated all different facets of the program which I just thought was awesome, even got outside a whole bunch which was great.....so many of the ideas I thought, “ooh I need to do that in class!”

3rd Grade Teacher

Looking Ahead



The 2014-2015 school year had a variety of challenges; however it was our most successful year with the Ready, Set, Read! Program. Each year our staff are developing quality lessons that are engaging, intentional, and fun for the kids. The themes inform our curriculum and our curriculum is built off consistent messages and program development. With all of this in mind, we're excited to see what 2015-2016 will bring!