Naples Chapter Education in general

 Reading and Literacy

Grace Place for Children and Families/Bright Beginnings Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Daily, Monday through Friday, September through May, according to Collier County School schedule

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $7,200 for general supplies $5,000 for Special Project - Music scores, violin purchase and instruction

**Partnerships**

Grace Place for Children and Families which runs the program, recruits, trains and evaluates

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 242 1-5 years old and 176 19-30 years old

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working) 11 November - April

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? Assisting in preschool classes weekly

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: Preparing children for kindergarten readiness equipping while equipping parents to be strong partners in their education

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? Support supplies: arts and crafts materials, books/education supplies, diapers, plus *Habits for Successful Families* training materials, healthy snacks,

supplemental/take-home reinforcement materials, 11 violins and weekly instruction. Chapter donates nonperishable food, toiletries, diapers wipes, etc to the Grace Place pantry.

Bright Beginnings, a nationally recognized family literacy program, pairs early childhood education services delivered to preschool students (from one to five years old) with parenting and literacy education services to their parents, most frequently their mothers. The four pillars of family literacy-parent time, adult education, early childhood education, and PACT (Parent and Child Together)-combine to empower students to build a culture of education in each of their homes, establishing a base of support for kindergarten preparation and continued academic success for both child and parent.

Parent time curricula include building knowledge of early childhood development, learning best practices for encouraging optimal development and kindergarten readiness, nutrition education, and family safety training. Adult education includes building literacy skills, building English language skills, and building financial and computer literacies. The knowledge and skills gained during parent time and adult education are put into practice in PACT time, where students practice engaging their children in developmentally impactful activities and literacy building, with guidance and support of professional teachers and trained volunteers. Throughout the year, parent attendance and performance is systematically tracked, allowing for both individual assistance, as needed, and overall tracking of curricula and program impacts. Through this process, parents learn to become capable and confident teachers of their children, and an invaluable resource in the home.

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