

## Project Ready's Learning Together Family Literacy Packs

**The key objective of the family literacy packs is to create positive language and learning interactions between child and parent.** The family literacy packs go home at the end of each preschool thematic unit in the Project Ready curriculum (once a month). They consist of fun language, literacy, and math activities for children to do with their families. All of the activities are things the children have done in the classroom (or a slight variation) and this is an opportunity for the child to show their parent what they have learned. It is designed for the child to “teach” their parent about the new knowledge they have learned. The family literacy packs are wonderful for all families and were designed so that any adult, regardless of the adult’s literacy level or English language fluency, can use with their child.

Each child gets a bag that is used across the school year. The sturdy bag has a luggage tag with the child’s name on it. The materials go home at the end of each unit and then are brought back to school one week later. Most of the materials are designed to be used across years (books, bag) or across the year for each child (crayons, play dough, glue, laminated letters and number cards), and a few materials are used just once (stickers, puppet cards, paper). When the bags are brought back to school, the materials are removed and the next unit materials are added.

To help make sure the family packs are used at a high level, we took several steps to explain how to use the materials in the packs. First, we held parent meetings before the first pack went home to explain the family literacy packs and discussed how families could use the materials with their child. Any parent who was not able to attend had a follow-up meeting with the classroom teacher. We also include a picture-based direction sheet, specific to each unit, showing how to use each material. Finally, the day the packs go home, the teacher shows the content of the packs to the children and discusses how they can use the materials with their parents at home.

### Each pack includes:

Knowledge Building Book: One book is a key book that was used to teach content knowledge from the curriculum. The book chosen has lots of pictures that the child can tell their parent about. There is always an activity that they can do with the book, connected to something they did in the classroom.

Wordless Book: One of the three wordless books from the unit (no reading required, you tell the story from the pictures) is included. This is a book they have used with their teacher in the classroom and are ready to tell the story to their parents.

A Puppet Making Kit. In the classroom we work on one retelling of a classic fairy tale or fable using finger puppets. The puppet kit in the home packs includes a blackline master of the puppets that were used in the classroom, crayons, glue, and craft sticks to make stick puppets. The child can make their puppets and tell their family the story using the puppets—just like in class.

Alphabet and Numbers Activity: These activities vary, but we always choose letters and numbers that the child has been working on in the class and use materials/activities that they use in the classroom.

Using routines and activities that the child is familiar with helps the child know exactly what to do when they work with their parent.

Examples of two packs that have been sent home:



North America Learning Together Family Literacy Pack

- Knowledge Building Book – *Me on the Map*. This book introduces the concepts of maps and globes that is taught throughout the year and focuses on where we live – North America. It has lots of fun pictures that the child can show their parent and talk about. In the classroom we do an activity where children make a map of the classroom. They are given a paper to make a map of home.
- Wordless book from this unit: *A boy, a dog, and a frog*. We study amphibians in this unit.
- Puppet Pack: *The Three Little Pigs*
- Letter and Number Cards with Playdough: The child uses playdough to make letters and represent the number. See example photo from a returned bag.

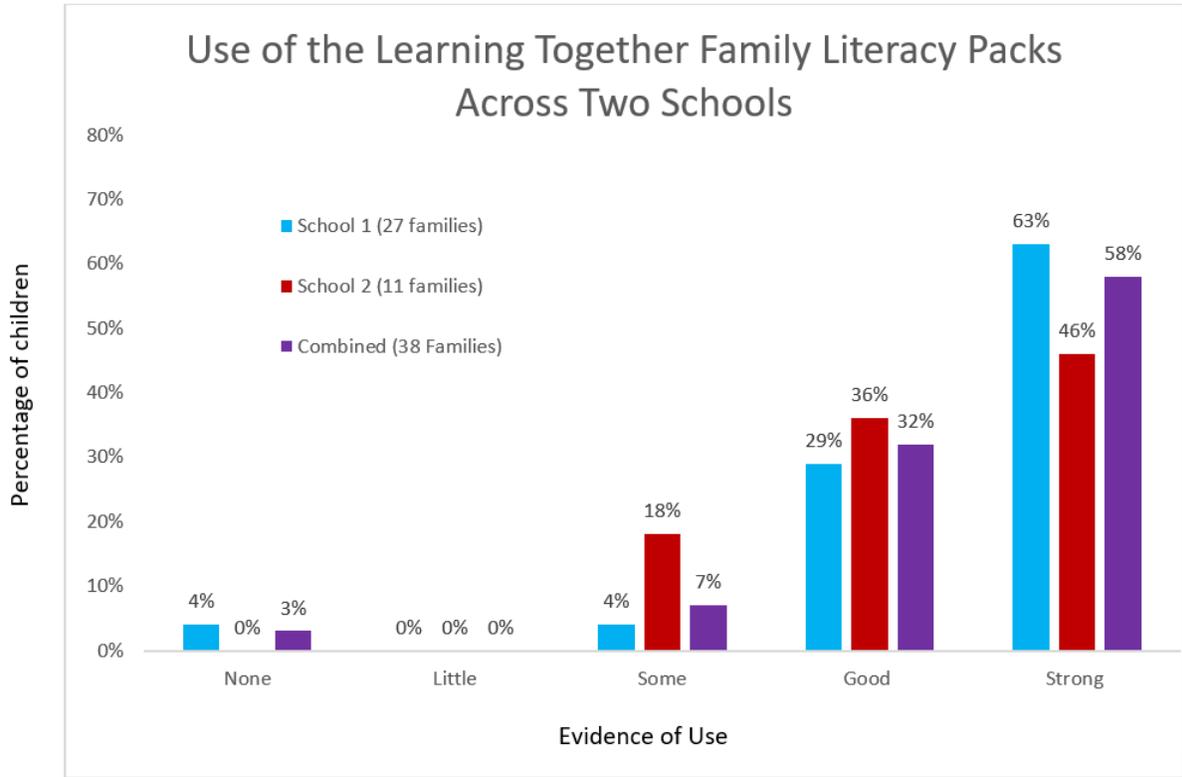


Astronomy Learning Together Family Literacy Pack

- Knowledge Building Book – *National Geographic's Planets*. This book shows beautiful photographs of the planets. They are given a piece of paper and crayons to draw their favorite planet (they all have one by the end of this unit).
- Wordless book from this unit: *Field Trip to the Moon*. We study the moon in this unit. At the end of the book silly aliens appear. Children are given paper to create an alien.
- Puppet Pack: *Three Little Kittens Who Lost Their Mittens*
- Letter Cards: The child uses wiki sticks to make letters.
- Number sheet with star stickers: Child places stars to represent the number.

Data Regarding Use of Learning Together Family Packs:

Below is a graph of data from our first set of take-home family packs, North America and Astronomy, with two of our schools. A total of 38 families received a pack, all 38 were returned to school and only 1 pack appeared not to be used. Ninety-two percent of the packs showed good or strong use.



Units in the Project Ready Preschool Curriculum. Dark yellow units indicate unique units for that year.

Year 1	Year 2
Welcome	Welcome
Kindness	Kindness
North America	North America
Astronomy	Astronomy
South America	Asia
My Amazing Body	My Amazing Body
Africa	Australia
Seasons & Weather	Seasons & Weather
Botany	Botany
The Arts	The Arts