

LEGO® Education StoryStarter

Elementary teacher, Barb McClain, uses this hands-on language arts tool to engage and motivate students to read and write.

The Need

As a Title I elementary educator for Grades 1-3, Barb McClain is always looking for an engaging way to motivate students to write. Many young students are very creative and have lots of ideas but struggle to get their ideas down on paper, which can make writing a frustrating experience. With 75 percent of the elementary school day spent focusing on literacy skills, it's vital to provide students a nonthreatening approach to writing that works, which is exactly what Barb found with LEGO® Education StoryStarter. She says, "Children love LEGO bricks and enjoy creating, building, and using their creations to tell their story." What better time to teach a concept than when students are engaged and having fun?

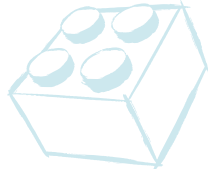
The Solution

The combination of LEGO elements combined with the interactive software provides a unique opportunity to teach and reinforce elements of reading and writing. The curriculum included in the activity pack correlates to all of the language arts Common Core Standards. According to Barb, "A teacher can simply set the program to cover the materials they need to teach and then stand back and let the learning begin!" The LEGO bricks enable the students to create, sequence, and tell their stories in a hands-on way and then later use the visual they created to write their stories. The software allows the students to publish documents

About the School:

El Dorado Springs RII

- El Dorado Springs, MO
- Grades: 1-3
- Title I School
- LEGO® Education classroom solution:
LEGO Education StoryStarter



that they are proud of and anxious to share with their peers. Before using StoryStarter, the students often produced stories accompanied with their own illustrations, but the printed copy created by the software is much more professional looking. Barb believes this tangible piece that students can show others enables them to gain confidence in their learning, and says that "StoryStarter is a great program to give children the confidence they need to be successful!"

The Results

In fact, the students created quite a buzz around school by sharing their StoryStarter experiences and creations. Barb's classroom began having many visitors, including teachers and administrators curious to see how she was creating such excitement about reading and writing. After the students wrote and published their stories, she let them take the finished pieces home to share with their parents, who also let her know how excited their children were about writing using StoryStarter.

She said, "I was approached by parents telling me how excited their child was about the LEGO project and couldn't wait for the weekend to be over so that they could get back to school to work on StoryStarter." What teacher doesn't want to hear that about a lesson?

Barb shares that the approach to learning that StoryStarter provides can be successful with children in a range of grade levels as well as with children of different abilities, from gifted to special education. She states, "It's a great feeling when any child loves to learn and feels proud and successful."