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ABSTRACT

A special program was developed using \$8,800 in local funds and \$18,957 in Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds for Head Start families in the Denver community. Of the 1,850 preschool-aged children from 100 Head Start classes who participated, 90% were from families with income levels below \$9,000, 78% were from single-parent families, 54% were Hispanic; and 12% qualified as special needs children. Specific objectives of the program were to: (1) provide an opportunity for each Head Start child to obtain a library card; (2) arrange a visit for each class to the Denver Children's Library or to a neighborhood library; (3) purchase appropriate library materials for use with Head Start children; (4) train 200 Head Start teachers and aides and 50 library personnel in providing programs for preschool children; (5) convey information and special programming for Head Start families; and (6) organize at least 3 visits to each of the Head Start sites by the Magic Bus bookmobile. Additional activities feature "I Have a Library Card" parties, storytelling programs, and visits by the Big Green Bookworm. The project is evaluated by assessing circulation statistics, children's comments before and after project activities, and interviews with parents conducted by Head Start aides and social workers. (SD)

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