Nilufer Koroglu

Action Plan

Target problem: Habiba doesn’t know how to speak English

Target group: Habiba, six-year-old Arab girl

Project title: English Learning

Goals

Smart Goal 1: Teach Habiba how to read a basic KG book

Smart Goal 2: Teach Habiba how to write a paragraph

Smart Goal 3: Let Habiba understand the basics of the English language

Obstacles

She only speaks Arabic

She is only six-years-old

She has her own homework from her school

She can get distracted easily

Tasks

Bring a kindergarten or elementary (depending if her understanding of English grows) book

Write down vocabulary words from the books we give her

Get English learning activities from online or make one for extra practice

Smart Goal

Specific: We want to educate a seven-year-old girl so she can understand English.

Measurable: We will know that Habiba knows English because she will be able to write at least a paragraph with correct spelling and grammar, she will be able to read and understand a given book.

Achievable: We thought it would be better if two people taught one person so the student can learn more. It is a difficult goal because the girl is still at a young age and can get distracted easily.

Realistic: This goal is realistic because we could give supplies to Habiba so she can learn well plus from time to time, we checked books from the library for her to read. We taught her at home but it was fine for her since she was used to this familiar environment.

Timely: We do not have any deadlines for Habiba but we just want her to reach the goals of reading, understanding and writing.

Journals

November 23rd, 2011-

Today was the first day me and Arianna started our project. I knew Habiba before but Arianna did not. Arianna seemed to like her; she thought Habiba was really sweet and loving child. Today, me and Arianna brought a book from the Elementary library and read it to her. She seemed to liking this book then when it was her turn to read she just acted shyly and got distracted a lot because her lack of english. But for someone in a condition like her that was pretty impressive. Habiba is going to school only 3 days and 3 hours per day, her parents are also having problems also they are poor. She read some but after awhile she prefered to look at the pictures instead. I think that is normal because she could not read it properly too. But for her age and conditions she must be a genius to know this much.

May 5th, 2012-

It’s been a long time since we started our project and Habiba understand basic English words and can tell what is it when you ask. It is a bit harder for her to write in English since Arabic letters are so different. She is having some trouble writing the words together and she does some letters from opposite way. It’s also hard for her to write the name of an object since she doesn’t know how to spell it correctly and from the top her head, she has to see the list of vocabulary words we made for her. Despite this, she has made a great improvement over the long period of time.

May 13th, 2012-

Today we brought her a new book she seemed to understand it but I cannot decide how much she understood because she is having problems about not remembering the vocabulary words and has a little problem about spelling. She can get a few words but her spelling is not the best. But still when we asked her to tell what happened in the book with a little help from my mom she told us the story in little English and Arabic. But unfortunately Habiba was feeling sick so she had to go home so we finished early.

May 18th, 2012-

Habiba is showing a huge improvement she can write really fast and when she does not understand she asks we or someone can speak both English and Arabic to explain to her in what does it mean in English. This shows that she is at least trying hard but she is also improving. She told us she was practicing how to write and showed us that she could write little phrases such as ‘’how are you?’’ and ‘’my name is Habiba’’. I think it is a great improvement for her because of her age and her busy life. Our goal was to let Habiba write a paragraph but unfortunately we were not able to achieve this.

Nilufer Koroglu

May 30th, 2012

Service Learning

Reflective Essay

Service-learning is a method of teaching, learning and reflecting that combines academic classroom curriculum with meaningful service, frequently youth service, throughout the community. The reason I wanted to do service learning this year at Cairo American College is to learn how to help the people around me and improve something in those unfortunate people. Which I did learn, and do during this year. I did various things and I continued it when I traveled Turkey. I feel like I become more aware about the unfortunate, and helping them. I felt like it could be anyone, even me in their situation so I should be accepting toward them and show them it could happen to anyone. But still there were times that challenged me or gave me a hard time.

After a while I saw that my maid has a daughter which named Habiba and she cannot really get a proper education, because of the economic reasons and the fact that there is not much school in Egypt that young kids can get kindergarten education. In my opinion it is really important because it benefits the children’s development in the following areas;

social skills, like how to play with other children in a calm, sharing and rewarding way

self-awareness and respect for others

emotional skills, for example understanding their feelings

language, literacy and numeracy skills, such as reading stories and counting objects

a joy for learning and group activities, such as talking, drawing and making things together with other children their own age

ability to make new friends

exposure to new ideas and concepts.

So Arianna and I decide to do our project on Habiba. We thought that because English is a world wide language and she is going to need it when she grows up. We decided to teach her English. This will eventually help her anyways even if she does not try, because she is young she will remember and have a natural understanding to English. This also made her parents really happy because Habiba has 3 more siblings and she is the youngest one. So when her turn comes there is not much left for her. Because her sisters and brother are going to school and their parents think that their education right now is more important than Habiba’s she can wait. When we started I was aware of this situation so I tried to make it easier for her. I think I really did make a difference, well it was not something huge but still even a little difference can lead to a big difference. So if she continues this way and I believe if she is half smart as this in other subjects she can.