

Syracuse ZONTA Foundation Grant Report

Enable's Education Services Program offers *inclusive* education and therapy services to children with disabilities through a collaborative project with Exploring Your World (EYW) Preschool program on West Genesee Street in Syracuse. Children with disabilities participate in preschool activities along side their typical peers. Enable and EYW staff work together in the classroom to address the needs of all the children in the program.

The grant from the Syracuse ZONTA Foundation was instrumental in allowing children enrolled at Exploring Your World preschool to participate in local field trips that have enriched and expanded their knowledge of their community and promoted language and literacy skills as well as physical and cognitive development. Funding from the grant was used to cover the transportation costs and souvenir materials which were incorporated into the curriculum. A county park admission pass was provided by the Commissioner of the Onondaga County Parks.



In July, the children visited the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse. The toddlers and preschoolers visited on different days allowing the staff to focus on a smaller group of children, and plan activities and discussion appropriate to the age of the children.





During their visit, the children helped select items from the gift shop to bring back to the classroom where they were utilized for classroom activities. The children selected animal shaped stamps, a puppet, magnetic animals and safari animals.

In August, the preschoolers visited the Boundless Playground at Onondaga Lake Park. The accessible play spaces and equipment made it possible for all the children, with and without disabilities, to enjoy play activities.



While they were there, the children also had an opportunity for a tram ride through the park.



During October, the children visited Beak & Skiff Orchard. Once again, the children were divided into smaller groups and visited on three separate days.



While they were there, children had an opportunity to pick apples, go on a wagon ride, climb hay bales and enjoy apple cider.

Follow-up classroom activities included making real apple pies and applesauce along with apple tree and apple print craft activities.



Overall, the experience for the children has been wonderful. The enrichment experiences that we provide to these children now, will continue to benefit them as they build upon those skills and that knowledge in kindergarten and beyond. Funding from this ZONTA grant has allowed us to make learning a fun and exciting experience for the children and extend that experience beyond the classroom. We are most grateful for your support in making this possible for the children and families served through this collaboration between Enable and EYW preschool.