

EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT TO ENHANCE DIVERSITY & ACCESS

BACKGROUND

Located in the suburbs of Bothell, Washington, Northshore School District’s Sorenson Early Childhood Center (SECC) serves about 240 children from ages 3-5. 80% of the student population receive special education services, and a large portion are English language learners. Sorenson’s library does not have a certificated SLMS on staff, and the 5,000+ collection was in considerable need of development and management to improve diversity and access.



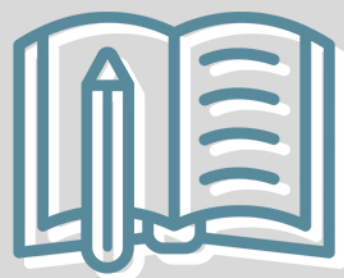
NEEDS

In order to better serve its users and provide resources more reflective of their needs, I developed recommendations to expand the SECC collection and put a plan in motion to acquire as many of them as possible. To enhance access and promote circulation, I also led a team to reorganize and recatalog nonfiction materials using DDC and will provide training to users once the new system has been fully implemented.

COLLECTION ANALYSIS

To identify areas in need of strengthening, I used a variety of methods:

- Titlewave Analysis
- Follett Destiny database searches
- Staff needs assessment survey
- SECC library committee input
- Curriculum analysis
- Student demographics
- Time in the stacks



RECOMMENDATIONS

Using the information obtained through collection analysis, I then made recommendaions aligned with the needs of SECC. Tasks included:

- Developing criteria for selection and deselection based off of NSD’s CD policy, best practices (CREW/MUSTIE), and the needs of the collection
- Recommendations for over 100 high-quality diverse fiction and nonfiction titles using selection criteria (www.andreazager.wordpress.com/recs)
- Recommendations for nonfiction resources aligned with curriculum
- Creating digital resource lists aligned with curriculum and themes
- Nearly 700 books weeded that met deselection criteria



FUNDING

- \$250+ raised through crowdsourcing
- \$500 allocated by NSD to acquire diverse nonfiction
- \$1000 grant from Northshore Schools Foundation sought for diverse fiction
- If grant is not awarded, NSD will allocate an additional \$1000
- Annual budget increased by \$250



REORGANIZATION

SECC’s collection had previously been cataloged using theme-based call numbers, which prevented a proper Titlewave Analysis. Because they did not use DDC, there was no way to systematically evaluate their holdings and identify specific areas in need of strengthening. The system also presented other problems as well, such as the inability to locate and utilize resources efficiently due to materials being processed differently over the years. A work party was held in mid-April to recatalog and reorganize the library into fiction and nonfiction sections, and it is now in line with district school library standards.

BEFORE

WEED

PROCESS

SIGNAGE

AFTER



IMPACT

Access to diverse, anti-bias resources early on helps to develop childrens’ acceptance and respect for all cultures, in turn fostering a positive self-regard of one’s own culture, as well as positive attitudes toward the cultures of others (McCracken, 1993). In working to develop a collection that aims to offer readers greater access to resources that provide both mirrors and windows (Bishop, 1990), children can build upon their understanding and appreciation of diversity. The impact of the collection reorganization is two-fold: users will be able to better locate and utilize the resources that the library offers, and systems are now in place that will allow for more effective collection analysis when determining areas of need.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to evaluate materials for bias and inclusivity
- Continue to make criteria-based selections and deselections
- Set up Donor’s Choose campaign to acquire diverse resources
- Weed, recatalog, process, and reshelve other sections using DDC (Spanish/bilingual; professional materials; oversized texts)
- Update remaining call numbers in Destiny to remove theme-based identifiers, editing by batch where possible to improve Titlewave collection analysis results
- Continue to promote library materials and features to users