Tutor in a Bag

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A concept dreamed up by a WKU Elementary Education major gives struggling kindergarten readers a whole arsenal of help.

Amy Bingham explains how “Tutor in a Bag” works in this week’s View from the Hill.

Statistics show only fifty percent of students entering kindergarten are ready. A WKU student has come up with an honors thesis that shines a spotlight on literacy and kindergartners struggling to read.

Lillian Hoskinson \WKU Junior

Dr. Nancy Hulan \ Faculty Mentor

So what’s in the tutor bag?

“different flash cards for sight words.”

Lots of fun stuff that can help with reading.

“I started researching games and activities that I wanted in the bag. ”

For WKU junior Lillie Hoskinson the idea for “Tutor in a Bag” grew out of a tough assignment.

“For an honors project I got the opportunity to tutor a kindergarten student and I felt completely overwhelmed and didn’t know what to do. So one night I was like it would be really cool if I had all the materials in a bag and had training. That’s how tutor in a bag came about.”

Working with her faculty mentors, Lillie found community members willing to be tutors and matched them with struggling readers at a local elementary school.

“There are so many students who really could use the extra help and so many community members who are willing to do that and be fabulous at that but they need a little bit of training, a little bit of support and Lillie’s project has helped develop that.”

Lillie has already presented her project at last month’s Posters-at-the Capitol event in Frankfort.

“several other legislators came around and looked at our project.”

“Early childhood education is really at the forefront in education in general and is a big issue with the budget and that type of thing. It was really important for her to get that out there and show the legislators to see how important it is.”

Lillie says the games and easy-to-use lesson plans are a positive way to help build their skills.

“We want to make this fun and not oh I have to go to tutoring this week. We want them to enjoy this and learn to love reading in the end.”

The pilot project began last fall with four students and four tutors and continues this spring with five students and five tutors. Lillie will present Tutor in a Bag at WKU’s Reach Week conference next month.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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