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Certification Training

I-CARE



Introducing Children to Acceptance through Reading & Education





Agenda

1. Introduction & Welcome to I-CARE

2. Objectives

3. Program Overview

4. Four Steps for Certification

5. Training Modules 1- 4

6. Summary Debrief

Introduction

- ✓ Welcome to the I Care Certification Program
- ✓ This program will help prepare you for classroom readings
- ✓ This is a *self-run* program, and all steps must be completed for certification

Objectives

- ✓ Upon completion of this certification you will:
 - Have a clear understanding of the purpose and value of the I Care program
 - Have reviewed the recommended reading material
 - Have had contact with an I Care Representative who will further describe the program and answer any questions
 - Be offered an opportunity to partner with an experienced I Care volunteer for your first reading
 - Have practiced your approach to leading a reading and facilitating dialogue with the children
 - Be confident in your ability to run a successful and rewarding I Care reading

Program Overview

- ✓ I Care is a volunteer reading program where typically developing children are read stories about special needs children
- ✓ The reading and subsequent discussion are designed to help the children realize that their special needs classmates are not so different after all
- ✓ Take-home literature is available for purchase; this enables the learning to go beyond the classroom

The Four Steps for Certification

1. Review the four training modules in this presentation
2. Submit to and pass a CORI review
3. Attend a volunteer meeting with an I Care representative
4. Create your own approach to opening, reading and leading a discussion with the children and receive feedback from an I Care Representative

All reading material must be approved by The Jamie Fund

Training Module 1 – Getting Started

- ❖ A short opening will set the stage for a successful reading
 - Introducing yourself - *Suggestions:*
 - Explain who you are and why your are here – *To read a story and talk about accepting special needs kids*
 - Explain why I CARE was created – *To help kids understand that it is OK and fun to talk to and play with special needs kids*
 - Putting the children at ease – *Suggestions:*
 - Position the session as fun – *Explain that the story has been enjoyed by many kids in many schools*
 - Setting guidelines and expectations – *Suggestions:*
 - Establish rules – *Save questions until the end of the story & raise hands for questions*

Training Module 2 – Making an Impact

- ❖ Reinforcing important points during the reading and the discussion will help support the overall learning
 - During the reading – *Suggestions:*
 - Pause during reading
 - Ask for agreement
 - After the reading - *Suggestions:*
 - Ask children to share what they heard and understood
 - Individual questions – Designed to get kids talking
 - *“What does this story mean to you?”*
 - *“Who can give me an example of a time when you helped another kid?”*
 - Group questions – Designed to get unanimous answers
 - *“Is it OK to include special needs kids when you play?”*
 - *“Is it OK to make fun of special needs kids?”*
 - Consider making index cards to keep in the book for your reference

Training Module 3 – Fielding Questions & Things to Watch Out For

- ❖ Kids learn by asking – Questions should be encouraged but can sometimes be tricky
 - Positive reinforcement – *Suggestions:*
 - Validate questions by telling each kid that the question is a good one
 - Even when the question is inappropriate, still validate and redirect
 - Redirect conversations that are going off track – *Suggestions:*
 - Use the book as a tool to redirect
 - During reading – “*Let’s get back to the story*”
 - After reading – “*What did the book tell us?*”
 - Avoid discussions about specific children – *Suggestions:*
 - Acknowledge questions or comments but explain that the purpose is not to talk about one person

Training Module 4 – Bringing it Home

- ✓ The learning can continue beyond the class room
 - Use reinforcement tools – *Suggestions*
 - Recommend that your school purchase take-home literature so that the children can continue the conversation outside of the classroom
 - Summarize the story you read in a take-home document
 - Encourage the kids to share – *Suggestions*
 - Ask the kids to verbalize what they will tell their families when they get home. This is a good test to see that the right message was learned

Summary of Training Session

- ✓ Questions?
- ✓ Practice
 - ✓ Discuss some possible verbiage for your opening
 - ✓ Discuss positive reinforcement and redirecting
- ✓ Review material
 - ✓ Books, take-home literature
- ✓ Feedback on training – What else do you need?

Where to Get More Information

www.thejamiefund.org

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Thank you



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