

Leroy Family Literacy

Leroy Elementary School

Northglenn, CO

At Leroy Elementary School in Northglenn, the big picture goal is to empower families to be partners in their child's education through interactive and varied ways that engage their child with reading and writing. Out of this goal came Leroy Family Literacy. While family engagement, especially opportunities focused on academics, is a school-wide effort, this event required close collaboration between the family liaison, academic interventionists, and the office manager.

Leroy Family Literacy revolved around a high-interest book series, *Pig the Pug*, that elementary students of all ages enjoy. There were a variety of activities that engaged students and families in different ways. Some of those included sight work and vocabulary giant Jenga, a photo booth with *Pig the Pug* themed props, and a ball pit students could dive into and "fetch" sight words. Families practiced how to ask their students age-



appropriate comprehension questions related to the themed book selection. The interactive nature of the activities was fun for families and students, even in grades 4 and 5. They also played a jeopardy review game, with the idea that students were able to teach their families how to support literacy at home.

The resources available around time and manpower to organize events like this are always a barrier, but one that schools typically rally together to overcome. This year, evaluation was mostly anecdotal observations and the smaller core planning team debrief. Attendance of families in grades 4 and 5 was relatively low, and so increased outreach is needed next year. Themed texts for each grade level that come from the reading curriculum, Benchmark, could also be selected, rather than just one theme. That would provide families with some additional context for what this learning looks like at school, and therefore, opportunities to support this learning at home.

The presence of a family liaison provided an additional resource in the form of a person who can help coordinate such events, but this cannot be one person's responsibility. Framing family engagement as a whole school responsibility is essential to organizing high impact opportunities that are connected to student learning, such as Leroy Family Literacy.