Outreach: Homeschooling Communities

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The Homeschooling Community

- Individual families
- Co-ops in the community
- Reasons for homeschooling
  - Awareness of their religious affiliations
- Sources of curriculum & books
  - Public library
  - Homeschooling catalog, publisher, or individual specialist
  - Local public school district or private school
  - Church
  - Homeschooling organization
  - Retail bookstore
  - Education publisher not affiliated w/ homeschooling
Programming: First Day of School

- About the Library
  - Web site, online catalog, general procedures

- Elementary grades
  - Beginning reader collection and non-fiction books
  - Age appropriate databases
    - Applications to curriculum (science, language, social studies)
  - Storytime – emphasizing early literacy skills

- Middle School and High School
  - Fiction and Non-fiction collection
  - Age appropriate databases
    - Applications to curriculum (science, language, social studies)
Beyond the Library Walls

- Presentations to homeschool co-ops
  - What the library has to offer
    - Web site
    - Catalog
    - Remote access databases
Promotion

- Library Website
- Posters
- Newspaper articles/news release
- Email lists
  - Summer reading sign ups
  - Surveys
  - Reference question
- Social networking tools?
  - Twitter
  - Facebook
  - Blog
Challenges

- Who does homeschooling?
- How do you contact them?
- How do you get to know their needs?
- How do you create a group, if there isn’t one already established?
- Where do you meet?
Minitex Outreach to Homeschoolers

- **Conferences**
  - Exhibiting & presenting sessions, newsletters
    - Minnesota Homeschoolers’ Alliance (MHA)
    - Minnesota Association of Christian Home Educators (MACHE)
    - Minnesota Catholic Home Education (MCHE)

- **Area groups & local homeschool businesses**
  - on-site instruction to home educators

- **Webinars for library staff on outreach to homeschoolers**
Additional Resources

- National Center for Education Statistics (US Dept. of Ed.)
  - Reasons for choosing homeschooling: 2007
  - Homeschooling in the United States: 2003
Thank you for your attendance & participation!

Questions? Comments? Ideas?