

Aspen Community Foundation helps with early childhood literacy in Garfield Re-2



This is Gus!



Gus is a bus. Actually, Gus is a handicapped accessible bus that has been gutted and retrofitted with a wood floor, and rails that hold magic and wonder for our underserved pre-schoolers in the form of books and age appropriate, open ended toys.



Gus the Bus and our early childhood instructor Cindy Gray make stops in several neighborhoods in Rifle. Parents bring their pre-schoolers to the bus. We have a translator available as well. The students get a story, parents receive information on how to read with their students and play with them using the open ended toys.



Students get a choice of open ended toys packaged in clear back packs that they can take home. On Tuesday, Gus and Cindy return and pick up the toys. They are cleaned, inventoried, and repackaged. We have been very fortunate to have an excellent return rate on toys. Children are also assigned a red, Raising a Reader book bag with age appropriate books. Some are in English, some are in Spanish and others are in both. On Thursdays, children can pick out new toys and receive new books for the following weekend.

The Garfield Re-2 School District is grateful for the support of the Aspen Community Foundation. Without your support, Gus the Bus would not be rolling!