

W.Va. Teacher of the Year visits ABLE Families Afterschool

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Kermit — The 2011 West Virginia Teacher of the Year, Drema McNeal, was the special guest recently at the ABLE Families Afterschool program in Kermit. She talked to the children about being a writer and reading books, and she read to them from a book that she wrote herself.

“We’re honored that Mrs. McNeal was so interested in coming to visit the kids we serve,” said ABLE Families executive director Barry Hudock. “She responded as soon as we invited her, and she insisted that she wanted to donate her time with us. It’s a wonderful and generous way to promote literacy with our kids.”

The West Virginia Department of Education named McNeal 2011 Teacher of the Year in September 2010. She was introduced by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin in his State of the State Address in January.

Besides being a teacher, McNeal is also a children’s author. Her first book, Kyle’s Colorful Life, about a boy with autism, has earned four national awards. Her second book, Jake Learns All 8 Parts of Speech, is a grammar book that was published in October.

All of the children who were present for McNeal’s visit received a copy of Kyle’s Colorful Life. McNeal signed every child’s copy while she was there.

ABLE Families Afterschool offers Kermit area children daily homework help, enriching activities, exercise, and a nutritious snack. All these services are offered free of charge throughout the school year.

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