



901 Deming Way • P.O. Box 45016 • Madison, WI 53744-5016

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sheila Wenz
(800) 200-4848 Ext. 2310
Fax (608) 664-3882
Email- pr@renlearn.com

All Renaissance Solutions Meet the Requirements of the **No Child Left Behind Act**

Kids Learn a Love of Reading at Texas Youth Correctional Facility

“I get kids who come in here who have never even attempted to read a book, let alone try to finish one. But by the time they leave, they’ve discovered that reading can be a fantastic, enjoyable experience.”

Kathy Mosley, Teacher at Youth Center of the High Plains Correctional Lock-Up Institution

MADISON, Wis – (October 21, 2002) Many of Katy Mosley’s students have faced more adversity before entering her classroom than most people experience in a lifetime.

Mosley is a reading and special education teacher at the Youth Center of the High Plains correctional facility in Amarillo. She implemented the Accelerated Reader (AR)® program there six years ago to help motivate these students to read. She credits Accelerated Reader for turning these troubled youths onto books.

“A lot of these kids haven’t had a lot of success in their lives,” says Mosley, “So for them to read and finish a book, and then get that immediate feedback, it makes them feel good about themselves. It can really boost their self esteem.”

Part of the Canon Independent School District, most of these 4th–12th-graders have had spotty academic records at best, with little success in the classroom. “A lot of these kids have been out of school for a time or have been in many different schools,” continues Mosley. “For many of them, this is the first time they’ve ever read a book in their lives.”

The students will receive regular school credit for completing Mosley’s class, however, simple things like a soda or the opportunity to make a phone call can be a motivational reward for meeting a reading goal.

According to Mosley, if you were to visit the Youth Center, you’d see kids with books in their hands all over the place.

“They can’t watch television or play video games,” says Mosley, “but they can definitely read - that is a privilege they do have.”

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