

Supporting Literacy Development in Yap

By Pamela Legdesog

How can principals help promote classroom literacy practices in their schools? Recently in Yap, principals and local Department of Education (DOE) trainers attended workshop sessions on using a basic classroom observation tool called the “Literacy Look Fors.” This tool was developed with support from the Pacific Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Pacific Communities with High-performance In Literacy Development

(CHILD) program at Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) and contains a checklist of practices, as well as a description of observation processes, that principals can use in their schools. The checklist includes things to look for in terms of literate environments, reading and writing instruction, and reading opportunities for children in classrooms.

After attending the training on the “Literacy Look Fors” observation tool facilitated by the REL field staff in

Photo by Pamela Legdesog



Yap, practice sessions on using the tool were conducted at every school site. Principals, local DOE trainers, and REL staff co-observed classrooms and held debriefings on the process. Principals are now using the tool in the schools on their own and are working with their teachers to improve literacy practices. Follow-up classroom observations indicate much improvement.

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