

A Special Opportunity for Special Learners

The Mannis Foundation* is pleased to offer “The Disappearing Bee” module of *Kids Reach Out: The Ripple Effect* to a small group of children, including some with specific learning challenges, on March 14, 2010. Kids Reach Out+ is an enrichment program that introduces elementary school-aged children to social and environmental issues through hands-on projects, discussion, and a gained awareness of how our choices and efforts can have effects that exceed ourselves. Through a multimedia approach, it brings in a range of disciplines, including science, social studies, and art/literature. In “The Disappearing Bee,” we will examine the impact of the declining bee population on the ecosystem and use activities and projects to spearhead meaningful but nonpressured discussion.

The Mannis Foundation + Kids Reach Out (KRO) is a natural partnership of organizations committed to encouraging inquiry and experimental reinforcement of academic concepts. Our March 14 program will include a maximum of 8 children, some of whom have learning challenges in the areas of visual integration, reading, or graphomotor skills. The learning-challenged participants will be children in grades 2–4 who have strong verbal reasoning and critical thinking skills.

This session of KRO will provide *all* of its students a chance to fully engage with sophisticated thematic content and materials on a topic of critical importance that has proven to be appealing to children in this age range. Our small group of insightful, creative, and intelligent “KROs” will learn in ways that are relevant, collaborative, and exciting, and in an environment where learning-challenged students are not hindered in their access to and enjoyment of the content and the activities. Reading level for each project and ancillary materials will be adjusted for students with reading problems, while visual scanning and density of illustrations will be designed for maximum intake and retention. The structure of KRO also encourages student discussion and input, thus students with graphomotor weaknesses will successfully partake in reflection activities.

No reference will be made to the makeup of the group or to learning problems. The design of KRO, in its partnership with The Mannis Foundation, ensures that discussion will be centered on the projects and the shared excitement of this learning opportunity.

Educators and other professionals working with “twice exceptional” children (intellectually gifted with learning challenges) are invited to recommend children with interest in this area for inclusion in the March 14 module or future ones. Ideal candidates are those who possess the profile of strong verbal abstract reasoning with challenges in visual organization and graphomotor planning.

For more information, please contact Rebecca@mannisfoundation.org.

*The Mannis Foundation was founded by Dr. Rebecca Mannis, PhD, in 2009 to provide necessary services to the underserved community of the learning challenged.

+Kids Reach Out was founded in 1998 by Karyn Slutsky/Queens Paideia School (queenspaideiaschool.org) and Ivette Mayo.