

The Kindie Monster Project

The "monsters" are small, stuffed, felt toys to be created by the high school students from drawings made by a local kindergarten class.

A kindergarten teacher and the high school librarian adopted a Kindie Monster Project.

The kindergarteners drew monsters and high school students sewed felt, with buttons and trims to make the Monsters the little kids drew.

The role of CTA was to teach the high schoolers to sew a running stitch, the back stitch and sew on a button.

This is our schedule:

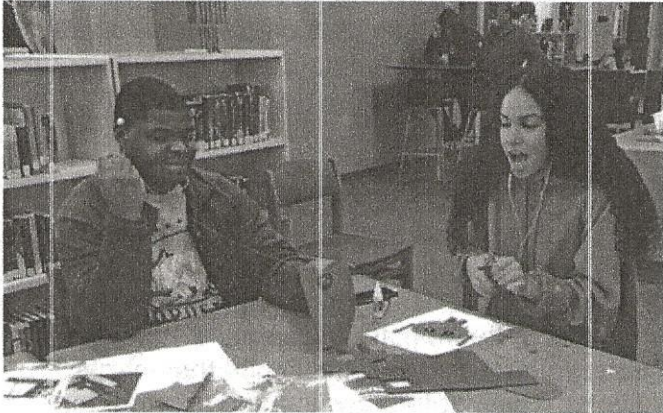
Monday, 5/13: Teach 2 basic stitches and how to sew on a button 1 hour

Tuesday, 5/14: Guide students as they work on sewing their monsters 1 hour

The high school kids were given a zip lock bag with the Kindie's drawing of a monster, a sewing needle and a square of wool with sample of the stitches and the button.

Students “sew” over monsters

High schoolers bring elementary students' visions of monsters into reality



Independent living class students scare up some creativity as they transform two-dimensional monster designs into 3-D stuffed creatures

Everett—Multiple eyes, arms, legs and antennae crawled off the page, turned three-dimensional ... and plush.

As the kindergartners at Madison Elementary School designed their monsters on paper, they knew their monsters would return “changed.”

Teacher Madison Taylor’s kindergarten students designed monsters, sent the designs off to Everett High School students who turned them into stuffed animals of the same likeness.

What the kindergartners hadn’t dreamed was their monsters developed personalities.

Some came back bearing notes that they liked pizza, swimming or princess tea parties.



An Everett High School student stitches together a child’s imagination with practical sewing skills

This collaborative effort began with Everett High’s Tammy Price, an independent living and Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher, contacting Everett High School’s librarian, Deborah Payne, for ideas on how best to teach her students basic sewing.

Payne is a passionate advocate of makerspaces (she hosts one in the library) and an expert sewer. She found a “monster project” online – a sewing unit in which secondary students construct stuffed toys for primary students based on the younger students’ designs. The project became real as Price made the arrangements and gathered the kindergartners’ drawings.

After viewing YouTube instructional videos on basic sewing techniques, Price’s independent living students assembled in the library to begin construction with the felt, stuffing, needles, pins and thread. But the teachers needed help instructing the 23 independent living students how to turn the 2-D designs into reality.



A Madison Elementary kindergartner holds the finished monster.

Enter Snohomish County's Clothing and Textile Advisors (CTAs). Through Everett High staff connections, the CTAs volunteered to lend their expertise and support for a couple of class periods. While they deftly assisted students in technique, they never took away ownership of the work. Taking away ownership would have been difficult anyway, according to Price. Her students were totally committed to completing the project because there was someone on the other end depending on them.

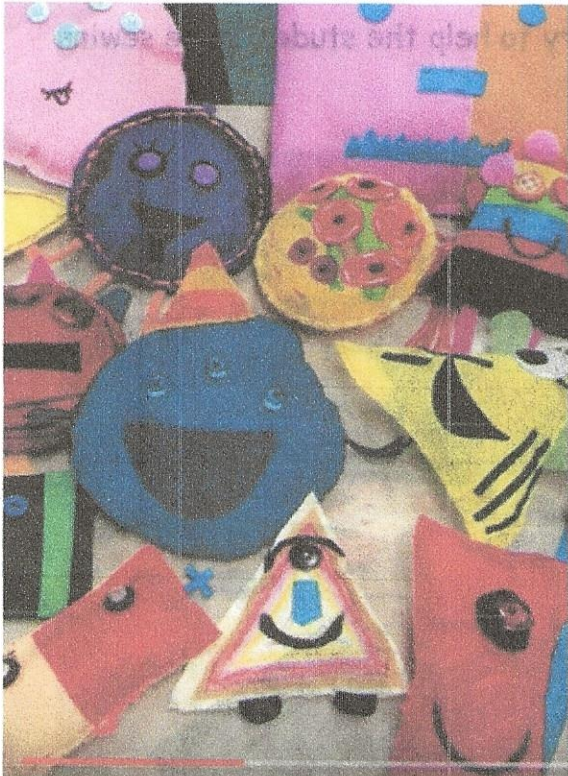
Price shared, "This is one of those school projects I hope students remember in the years ahead. Those students just beginning school might also remember the time a high school student made their monster come to life!"

Andy Sevald, a district STEM facilitator, was impressed with the project. "This project hit all the marks: cross-grade student participation, project-based, personal touches, professional community member involvement. It just doesn't get any better than this." Sevald also witnessed the monster delivery. "What was particularly notable was the expression of the kindergarteners' faces, holding in their hands what had previously existed only in their imaginations. Their stuffed toys served as proof that dreams can become real," said Sevald.

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For more information:

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The Monster Project Overview

- Madison Elementary students from Ms. Taylor's kindergarten class designed monsters from specific shapes. Then they named their monsters and sent them to EHS.
- Students from Ms. Price's Independent Living class took the kinders' designs and created monster toys, while learning basic sewing stitches.
- Women from the CTA helped students learn to sew.
- EHS students finished their monsters and created FlipGrid messages to their kindergarten designer, then shipped them back to Ms. Taylor's class.
- This all happened in the library... where we make stuff!

At the Elementary school, Kindergarten students drew a picture of their monster.

The drawings were delivered to the Library at Everett High School. Students chose the picture of a monster and prepared to sew a replica of it with felt.

Day one of the project, SnoCo CTA go to the High School Library, our mission is to teach the students the **RUNNING STITCH**, **BACKSTITCH** and how to sew a **BUTTON**. They need these skills to make the monsters created by the Kindergarteners.



Day two of the project, SnoCo CTA go to the High School Library to help the students use sewing skills to create the monsters.



The students finish the project and the Monster creations are delivered back to the Kindergarteners

Exceeding expectations.

