Exploring Early Literacy

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We’ve talked for years about the digital divide and how, if you’re on the wrong side of that technology access gap, you get left behind. I think there’s the potential for a kind of curiosity gap.”
What is Early Literacy?

What children know about communication, language, reading and writing BEFORE they can actually read and write
A Child learns about HALF of everything they learn in a lifetime by age FIVE.
80% of brain development occurs during the early childhood years (0-5 years old)
Why Words Count

Middle Class Family
- The typical middle class child enters first grade with 1,000 to 1,700 hours of one-to-one picture book reading

Low Income Family
- A child from a low income family averages just 25 hours of one-to-one picture book reading
The “Word Gap”
Organizations that LOVE Libraries

- Read Aloud 15 MINUTES
- RIF (Reading Is Fundamental)
- StoryBlocks: Songs and Rhymes that Build Readers
- Mother Goose ON THE LOOSE!
What IS Reading?
TALKING
SINGING
READING
WRITING
PLAYING
You’re Never Too Old...
Dialogic What?

- In dialogic reading, the adult helps the child become the “teller” of the story by asking open-ended questions.

- Goal is to start having children respond with more than just one word at a time.
PEER Sequence

- **P**rompts the child to say something about the book
- **E**valuates the child’s response
- **E**xpands the child’s response by rephrasing and adding information to it
- **R**epeats the prompt to make sure the child has learned from the expansion
Using Prompts to Begin
PEER

- Completion prompts
- Recall prompts
- Open ended prompts
- Wh- prompts
- Distancing prompts
What DOESN’T WORK?
Nursery Rhymes For 4s and 5s!

“A child that knows just 8 nursery rhymes by heart at four years of age is usually among the best readers by the time they are eight years old.” Mem Fox: Reading Magic

Just 50% of today’s generation of parents know all the words to traditional nursery rhymes.
Messy Active Play (MAP Time)

- A drawing of a brick wall
- A colorful flower
- A black and white sheep made of cotton balls
- A children's craft with a poem:
  
  *Incy Wincy spider,
   Climbed up the water spout,
   Down came the rain,
   And washed poor Incy out,
   Out came the sunshine.*

  *And dried up all the rain,
   And the Incy Wincy spider,
   Climbed up the spout
   Again!*
“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.” - Plato

“We don’t stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing.”

- George Bernard Shaw
“Play is serious learning.”

-Mr. Rogers

“Play is the highest form of research.”

- Albert Einstein
Brooklyn Public Library: Big Brooklyn Playdate
Learn how to aid a child’s development with simple, inexpensive activities at home
Kids enjoy playing with empty boxes at a play station set up during the Voorhees library's Big Play Date, March 29, 2014.
Indianhead Federated Library System:
Ellsworth Public Library
Tacoma Public Library System, WA

Making SNOW with shaving cream and corn starch

Sensory Hoops with Fabric
Colossal Calgary Playdate
WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY?
What do children learn through play?

- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills
- Problem solving
- Conflict resolution
- Learning about MY world
- Tactile learning
- ECRR2 practices
- Communication
- STEAM learning
What do parents/caregivers learn through play?

- Communication
- ECRR2 techniques
- Conflict resolution
- Problem solving
- STEAM learning
- Learning about THEIR child’s world
How do libraries help parents/caregivers learn?

- Model behaviors and interactions
- Communicate ideas within a conversation
- Facilitate group play
- Ask questions
- Provide information sources
- Community connections
What does play based talk sound like?

- Responsive
- Imaginative
- Open ended
- Encouraging
- Questioning
- Rich words
- Descriptive
Early Learning with STEM in Libraries

Montgomery County Public Library System: Damascus Branch created 22 STEM mini-stations to circulate to other branches in the system.
Play and Learn!

You are your child’s first teacher. When you talk, read, and play with your child, you are building the vital connections in their brains that they need to develop early literacy skills. These nesting cups are a great way to introduce play and learning into your daily routine.

Playing is an important part of their development. It helps children learn that words stand for real objects. On the back of this card are a few simple activities you might enjoy doing together.

- Compare and sort the different sizes and colors. Discuss why they nest inside each other.
- Count the cups. How many are red, blue, etc.
- Hide a toy under a cup and have your child predict where it is.
- Fill, scoop, and pour water or sand. Talk about what happens when they pour and why.
- Stack the cups all different ways and then knock them over. Use phrases such as “all fall down” to describe what happens.

NYS FAMILY LITERACY GRANT
EARLY LITERACY GIVE AWAY ITEM:
NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES
The Name Game

• Tickly Toddle
• Play and Learn
• Family Play
• Terrific Twos
• If You Build It, They Will Come
• The Young and the Restless
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“if you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun.”
– katharine hepburn