



Iowa Library Service Areas' Early Childhood Literacy Initiative

I. Awareness / Promotion

Librarians, trustees, parents and caregivers are aware of the importance of early childhood literacy, and of the resources and opportunities available.

1. Staff and trustees of 200 libraries will use print and online resources to express the importance of early childhood literacy to their communities, and how the library can help, by June 2008.

2. By early Fall 2007, at least 1 poster, 1 info sheet, and 1 table tent, as well as a website to facilitate access, will be developed.. (New designs added continuously; purchase materials when available and appropriate)

Partners: hospitals, doctors' offices, restaurants, etc.

3. By June 2008, 5 Video Clip Tips for caregivers and 6 video demos for librarians will be available for viewing on the web.

Potential Partners: AEAs, local libraries, high school students (class work?)

4. Commercially produced PSAs will be available to libraries to borrow by December 2007.

5. By March 2008, 6,000 parents and children will have received information about summer library programs, library services to children, and the importance of reading and books to preschool children.

Partners: public libraries

II. Training

Librarians and caregivers have the knowledge and skills to help children gain the skills needed to prepare to read and learn.

1. At least 15 libraries will provide outreach to WIC clinics, doctor's offices, or other places where parents and children wait, and reach at least 100 families

Potential Partners: WIC, doctor's offices

2. At least 75 librarians will attend workshop/session on the development of children and the importance of skill development at various stages, by April 2008.

Potential partners: AEAs

3. By May 2008, 200 librarians will attend one of the workshops on effective storytimes and library programs for young children. (Speakers: Saroj Ghoting, Susan Dailey, MaryAnne Kohl)

Partner: IPTV for ICN sessions for Susan Dailey and MaryAnne Kohl.

4. By March 1, 2008, a series of the "StoryTime Strategies" synchronous learning series will have been offered at least once per topic, with 60 librarians completing the basic CE requirements. By June 30, 2008, a video will be available for each strategy.

III. Program Development

Librarians and caregivers find a variety of programs and opportunities to help them help children prepare to read and learn.

1. By January 2008 trainers will complete Baby Talk or Baby Signing training. By May 2008 training opportunities will have been held at least twice in each service area and potentially via the ICN.

2. By May 2008, 100 libraries in the state will have one or more programs, such as lapsits or Books for Babies, for the youngest Iowans and/or their parents.

3. By May 2008, at least 5 libraries will sponsor Grandparents' Fairs.

Potential partners: local libraries,

4 By May 2008, at least 5 additional ToddlerFests will be scheduled by groups of children's librarians.

Potential Partners: AEA, Childcare Resource and Referral, Empowerment Boards, Daycares, Head Start, ISU Extension, and Local Businesses.

5. By April 2008 at least 12 libraries will participate in programming for Week of the Young Child.

IV. Resource Development

A wide variety of appropriate resources are available to librarians and caregivers to use in early childhood literacy skill development.

1. By March 2008, 25 kits targeting specific developmental skills will be available for loan, 50 plans will be available on the web. |

Potential Partners: County extension offices; librarians who attended the Mother Reads programs

2. By March 2008, 25 kits will be available for loan to parents and other care providers, plans for 50 kits will be available on the web/

Potential Partners: County extension offices; librarians who attended the Mother Reads programs, Head Start programs.

3. By May 2008, 70 librarians will attend workdays, and at least 50 kits will be planned and/or produced, and plans shared on the web

Potential Partners—local libraries collaborating; county library associations; AEA production labs--make it and take it days using Ellison/Accu-cut machines

4. By December 1, 2007 a blog that can be used by groups of librarians (counties, metro areas) to plan, market, and present an event just for toddlers will be online.

Potential Partners - librarians and community agencies who will contribute documents and content to the wiki.

V. Collection Development

Libraries have the tools needed to provide a collection of materials useful to caregivers to develop early literacy in the children in their care.

1. By December 2007, develop list of board book titles to be shared in rotating collections or via ILL, and decide on purchase plan among the LSAs

2. Core bibliographies or recommended materials of use in early childhood literacy completed and posted by February 2008. Plan for recommendations for size of library completed by June 2008, implemented FY2009

Potential Partners: Publishers, Public Library Collection Managers and Youth Services Librarians.

3. By April 2008, publicity will begin for grant opportunities for public libraries to develop preschool collections.

Potential Partners: AEA, businesses and foundations.

VI. Collaboration

Libraries and other agencies work together to provide the best possible support for caregivers in preparing children to learn.

1. By April 2008, at least 10 county/area collaboration meetings will take place for early childhood providers to plan cooperative activities and programs.

Potential Partners: AEAs, daycare providers, public health

2. By April 2008, at least 10 county collaborative groups will be organized and a project developed/planned for each group.

