

**INVENTORY OF CURRENT EARLY LITERACY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN
BY OREGON'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES
FALL 2005**

Collected by the Multnomah County Library

Storytimes

- *Baby Lapsits* (at least 1x/week); Storytimes for babies (currently have *Baby Lapsits*; thinking about adding one for babies walking) – free for all environment is appealing to parents; our biweekly *Baby Lapsit* programs includes 1:1 parents and infants, with music, rhymes, rhyme sheets, activities (e.g. baby's eyes).
- *Storytimes for Tiny Tots*-12-24 months old (at least weekly in English & Spanish)
- Storytimes for toddlers, and preschoolers (at least weekly; in English & Spanish).
- Outreach programs to children in childcare centers (including storytimes in English & Spanish).
- Intentional focus on 6 literacy skills during storytimes to teach parents and caregivers.
- Bilingual storytimes for families (all ages); outreach to Latino community, translated materials (library cards and brochures); classes to parents and caregivers in Spanish; other outreach in Spanish – storytimes, partnerships, parents, child caregivers – bring bags of materials without due dates; bilingual staff, celebrations like *Dios de Los Ninos*.
- *Family Night* programs: Trained volunteers model storytimes.
- Incorporating more physical activities into our storytimes, such as stretching and handling manipulative toys – encouraging one hour playtimes with parents to follow storytimes.
- Bedtime storytimes.
- *Fiesta* bilingual celebrations & storytimes.
- Storytimes in Korean and Spanish.
- Storytimes offered at Creswell Community Center on a drop in basis (usually 30 per session); also sign language for babies classes, car seat giveaways, and brain research talk.
- Vocabulary building during storytimes (V is for video).
- Free books, music, rhyming and alliteration – one of the six early literacy skills is featured in each storytime program.
- Evening monthly family storytimes (glow in the dark stars)- includes teens with their babies and features a story and a craft.
- Monthly meetings of *MOPS* (Mothers of Preschoolers) – 10 minute storytimes at all levels (2,3, and 4 year olds) offered to mothers to show them the difference in developmentally appropriate storytimes.
- *Baby Steps* – 2 storytimes in English and 1 in Spanish (for all ages).
- Weekly *SOAR* (Sisters of Active Recreation) storytimes to 3-4 year olds.
- Lunch time storytimes for children in kindergarten and younger – Have lunch at the library and listen to stories weekly.
- We offer “open registration” storytimes to all ages 5x/weekly, and have a creative and frisky staff (storytimes are mandatory for all staff).

- In our baby storytimes, we teach parents bouncing rhymes and fingerplays (many mothers don't know these things, so we've printed handouts to reinforce their experience).
- We have an "Active Space" in our library to encourage more parental involvement during storytimes.
- We offer *Baby Times* three times a week to HUGE crowds of 75-100 people (and they work!).
- We started a *Saturday Family Storytime* for all ages, with activities and a parent support group.

Books & Activity Kits

- Collections of picture books; board books; books; videos; DVDs; music; pop-up books; children's videos (like Blues Clues); sign language; Baby Bug magazines,
- Special identification labels on books to make it easier for parents to choose age-appropriate materials.
- Parent/Educator & Homeschooler's Collections.
- Kits: Theme bags for circulation, filled with books, puppets and related activities.
- *Story Kits* for library staff & volunteers: advance groupings of materials for use in storytimes.
- *Storytimes in a Box* for child care providers: books, props, resource notebooks, tips for sharing; and training (modeling storytime programs).
- *Toddler Totes*: Books, videos, CDs, manipulative toys, music, noisemakers, and puzzles for children to check out (kids carry these colorful totes on their backs).
- *Kid-Kits*: Groupings of materials on sensitive issues & topics (e.g. death, going to a hospital; going to school; and potty training).
- Collections that promote early literacy.
- New early literacy theme bags in Spanish with books, videos, and toys.
- Audio books with printed stories.
- *Picture Book Bags* – Collections of picture books in English & Spanish delivered to child care centers.
- *Take Home Book Bag* Program: Outreach with partners (child care providers, health providers, Head Start and other community-based groups) to at risk children. These book bags say "read to me" and contain age-appropriate books. Can be exchanged weekly at these mini-libraries hosted by partners.
- Books, including bilingual board books, books, CDs, kits, and wonderful artwork.
- *Care Kits*: for home child care providers – materials, demonstrations, information on literacy issues.
- *Stories To Go Kits*: materials for parents and caregivers.
- *Welcome Packs* of books and library promotional materials to welcome new residents to the area.
- Nursery rhyme books.
- "Honor book" collections that can be borrowed without a library card to address economic barriers – includes picture books and chapter books.
- Story backpacks for families to check out (stories for 0-6; flannel boards; magnets; puppets; videos; audiocassettes).

- *Care Kits* (to home child care providers) with books, audiovisual materials, magazines for parents, child care org information.
- Fun pack collections of fiction and nonfiction books on various themes in bags for checkout, including tips, crafts, and ideas for activities for ages 0-6.
- Weekly story bags are delivered to branches in Jackson County. These include books, puppets, felt boards, etc. Courier delivered – the schedule is part of our calendar announcements. These are age-specific bags that include (with the exception of pop-up books) items found in the general collection. Jackson County is divided into 4 regions – 4 bags go out to the library branches – cost effective and time efficient to have rotating book bags *Taking It On The Road Story bags* (TOR). It is easier to recruit volunteers and staff to do storytimes if they can select and choose from among the pile of items in the story bags. They're also encouraged to supplement the bags and they know what is coming in advance through the calendar announcements.
- We have *Preschool Story Kits* (canvas theme bags, which can be checked out by anyone).
- We deliver deposit collections monthly to child care providers (boxes of 50 books).
- We provide extra copies of the books we read during storytimes for parents and kids to read together at home
- We provide multi-language collections.

Special Events & Programs

- Special events and programs: author celebrations; puppet shows and other special children's programs; game afternoons; storytellers, puppet festivals, *Los Dios de los Ninos Weeks*, storytelling festivals; monthly evening *Pajama Parties* (3-5); *Saturday Storytimes* for all ages; Multicultural performers and workshops; Our *Special Saturday* weekly events include videos with popcorn, performers (like Science Man), and books combined with other media, to encourage family time at the library for all ages.
- Bilingual Family Celebrations (English & Spanish).
- Winter Reading Programs: For children 0-8, sharing reading all winter long plus a party.
- Free book giveaways during Summer Reading Program – books in English & Spanish are also given away during National Childrens Book Week Celebrations.
- Special activities for preschoolers (e.g. stories featuring guinea pigs with live animals or firefighters reading books about stories featuring fires).
- Collections in 30 international languages, including Braille.
- *Prime Time Family Reading Time* -- a humanities-based program targeting at risk children, complements efforts of the Oregon Commission for the Humanities – for 2nd/3rd graders and their younger siblings and parents in English & Spanish.
- Special evening events: *Super Tuesdays* with magicians and puppet shows.
- Hosting the 27th *Annual B.E.A.R. Month* – a winter program (Be Eager About Reading) that culminates in a teddy bear parade.
- *Read & Romp* programs: Age-appropriate books and toys during storytime hiatus

- Daily *Story Stops* in which library staff offer a casual brief storytimes for 15-20 minutes; includes a casual conversation with parents about early literacy.
- *Building Blocks* program: A five-week basic skills program at the library (e.g. colors, special development, etc.)
- Year-round special programs like puppet shows and outdoor nature programs
- *Read to the Dogs* program: reading encouragement for the reluctant reader; Programs reading or listening to someone reading to certified dogs – *Read to the Dogs* on Saturday mornings (regular dogs and therapy dogs).
- Music programs for children.
- Kickoff for summer reading includes music, rhymes, and songs.
- Older children read to younger children for Summer Reading Program credit.
- After school program – visit first-graders for a library-based program of books, snacks, and crafts. “Non fiction focus” is part of the library card campaign (In Wallowa County, a similar program occurs in the libraries on Fridays, with the snacks provided by the local elementary schools).
- Storytelling events at summer free lunch program sites (includes book giveaways).
- Elks Christmas Party & Food Bank event -- partnerships to distribute books and free food to needy families.
- Participating in school carnivals – handing out library cards with balloon animals.
- *Community Connections* program – Family nights where parents are invited to learn more about early literacy.
- *Celebration of the Family* event.
- *Family Nights* – games, puzzles, and dramatic play.
- “*Pizza After Work*” programs (plus root beer) – used as a way to get kids signed up for Summer Reading Program and includes free book giveaways
- “At risk” summer program: grandparents (patrons) read to kids every morning 4x/week – schools provided training and the library provided “foster grandparents” who are paid a modest \$2.50/hr to read books and play games.
- *W.O.R.M.S.* club– free books, buttons, card pouch – part of Fall National Library Card campaign. Local grant started the program (teachers supply m&ms).
- As a coast guard community (Astoria), we make a special effort to have kids bring their dads when they come back after a long ship rotation – *Bring Dad to the Library* programs.
- Every May *Cherish Every Child* Festivals cosponsored with Educational Service Districts – free book giveaways at the library (community-wide event).
- Music & story combination programs, plus physical activities.
- Physical music times (ages 2-6).
- *Read to Me* tee-shirts (part of summer reading program).
- *Teddy Bear Valentine Tea* (special event).
- *Teddy Bear Picnic* (Corvallis – makes front page news annually) – The Preschooler Social Event of the Season. 350 kids in Central Park and a dressed up Pooh Bear – last Thursday in June.
- Free *Annual Storytelling Festival* (includes young storytellers) – 1st weekend in February
- Summer Reading Program outreach to child care home providers, encouraging them to read to their children throughout the summer. The statewide theme drives

the packets of ideas we create for providers who read, keep track of reading times, plus a CD and book they can use. The kids get the same certificates those enrolled in the library-based summer reading program receive.

- SRP toddler/lapsitter reading logs are kept (by time read - 15 minute days consistently logged in the calendar). This log makes reading 15 minutes each day a habit; you can color in the days. Calendar allows for environment print – for example, reading the road signs counts.
- We have a Carnival each year: Summer Reading Program is the hook – we give away 10 free tickets for games at the Carnival to our SRP participants.
- We offer *Bookie Wookie* – a concert by professional musicians for bouncing babies.
- We sponsor a mini-book group for pre-readers and their caregivers. We all read the same book and talk about what it means (e.g. Caps for Sale), use props, have a snack, do a physical activity together, and assign a title to read for next time (we have between 9-30 kids who attend).
- We participate in *Latino Night* at our elementary school.
- We have Picture Book Book Clubs (*Princess Club*)—volunteer-led book clubs for parents, and preschoolers. Kids dress up (pretend play nurtures narrative skills).

Special Services

- Highly trained staff, including early childhood educators.
- Library budgets for Children’s staff, resources, programs, and outreach efforts.
- Educator & Homeschooler’s Library Cards “Educator Cards” for 6 weeks.
- Booklists; series of bibliographies and bookmarks on “Frequently Asked Questions” topics (e.g. new baby); packets of supplemental information for parents with age-appropriate tips, collections of CDs and books; emergent literacy handouts; birth-3 developmental stuff.
- Toys: Tabletop toys; Coloring tables; Legos, dollhouse, Brio train sets (all encourage narrative skills through pretend play); puppet theatres (our Puppet Theatre is sized to fit a 4-year-old. Kids go into the puppet theatre and do their own puppet shows and storytelling to build their narrative skills); coloring sheets, crafts; friendly staff, puppets; flannel boards; stuffed animals, BRIO toy sets, large pillows, fire truck; puzzles, Fisher Price toys, and marionette theatres; Clifford the Dog (huge stuffed animal, replaced 3 times, now tethered to desk); We have toys for cooperative play (like kitchen play sets); We have masks, plastic toys, rolling alphabet toys, and other things that are fun to play with; We have oversized stuffed animals for nesting with books.
- “Story Room” play areas – for social/emotional skill development.
- Child-friendly environments (colorful walls, posters, art, child-sized furniture, colorful carpet squares); age-appropriate restrooms; Beautiful mural in Story Corner (Foundation matched our Ready to Read grant and we hired a local artist to paint the mural).
- Computers and developmentally-appropriate software (e.g. Magic Schoolhouse); We have installed Magic School Bus computer software on public access computers for preschoolers; also on Kids computers with Internet access
- Support groups for new moms (before/after Lapsit programs for babies).

- Various information brochures on early literacy topics.
- Handouts – like *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* materials.
- Postings of parent information.
- Trained staff to conduct Readers’ Advisory – we help parents and caregivers select books that are age-appropriate.
- Wall displays that promote reading.
- Programs that encourage reluctant readers, like *Read to the Dogs*.
- Visits to first grade classes – library card sign-up with coupons for free books when they use their new cards.
- Early literacy activities for parents.
- Various orientations to the library: *Introduction to the Library*; *Teen Parents* program.
- Early Reader collections and finding aids.
- Advocacy efforts at all levels, ALSC, ALA, partners; working within libraries, Library Advisory Board, Boards, library foundations – focusing efforts on early literacy; serving on community committees, like Multnomah County’s Leaders Roundtable (helping make the connection between 3rd grade reading benchmarks and early literacy efforts that start at birth).
- Library-based Executive Teams focused on early literacy – providing support to outreach staff.
- Preschool Early Literacy Committees—keeping staff trained and their skills refreshed.
- Redesigned Web sites: links to Birth to 6 section (new).
- Amnesty Day – fines are forgiven to remove barriers to use by families.
- Public Relations support: Event calendars and print materials to develop community partnerships, and funding for radio and TV spots.
- Developing grants and alternative funding sources to support early literacy programs.
- Circulating puppet collections (washed by volunteers).
- Educational games and software.
- Renovating our libraries (improved children’s area and family reading areas) and using special tax levies/mil/private foundation money to support youth services and Spanish-speaking programs.
- Developing Mission Statements with our boards: Cedar Mills example is “Encourage early literacy for kids.”
- Highly trained staff with specialty knowledge.
- Tours for preschools and child care centers (includes a storytime and library card promotional activities)
- Links to various web sites for kids – accessed by library card; *Active Kids Page @ The Library* (Web) with links for parents, teachers, and kids; *Zorro/Zeta* – Children’s Web portal links to Kids Catalog.
- Institutional cards – available to schools and nonprofits within Eugene, offering borrowing privileges for students by institution.
- Long range plans that focus on early literacy: To do more outreach to those at risk.
- Potential levy to fund a fulltime children’s outreach person.
- *Read for Joy* book given to parents of newborns in both Spanish and English.

- Training for volunteers, who visit parents of newborns with home visits and give group presentations at Wellness Center and other agencies. (outreach)
- *Storytime Express*: visits to 8 different child care sites monthly, with storytimes and collections of books, plus free book giveaways to children and early education titles to the site.
- *First Books*: giveaways to children in 4 housing projects.
- *Foster Grandparents* in the library, providing storytimes 1x/weekly for preschoolers.
- Cards for Kids.
- Ongoing early literacy professional development activities for staff.
- Zine for teen moms in English and Spanish (MLS student project).
- Early childhood education collections in community colleges.
- Family room in new library building.
- A Birthday Club – for books to storytime participants. Name plates have the child’s name – older children share their books with their younger siblings.
- Creating booklets with critical information for caregivers.
- Booklets for parents as handout with key points about early literacy – also bookmarks and free book giveaways.
- Sound bites on the radio and talk shows – the library has educational things to talk about. Example – Family Talk Show will run our sound bites.
- Rotating boxes of 40 books to child care providers (wildly popular).
- We formed the Eastern Oregon Early Literacy & Learning League (ELL), established in 2003 as a multi-county collaborative effort (Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Harney, and Wallowa counties) to provide exemplary early literacy programs for children, their parents, and caregivers (includes *Training Wheels*, *Take Off!*, *Story Time Express*, *First Steps*, and *Storytime on Wheels*).
- We teach fingerplays.
- We offer social interaction opportunities.
- Bilingual library card applications (English & Spanish) plus translated program fliers.
- Displays with interactive props (e.g. reptiles, rubber snakes, and frogs), toys, puzzles, and card games – Library displays are changed monthly.
- *Think Link* preschool students visit the library regularly-- central location for class visits – easy to walk to the library for these programs.
- Literacy Center serves all ages – teen parenting classes in the library (formerly funded through the school district); 1st-3rd grades, and parent education training. In the past, we’ve visited the County Fair with storytimes, etc. Our new building in La Grande will feature a large Literacy Center
- In Astoria: The Board will concentrate on *Every Child Ready To Read @ The Library* – as part of library’s role in carrying out its lifelong reading theme. This is further supported by the Friends of the Library – coordinating with other agencies to obtain a grant to support early literacy activities.
- Rhyme sheets with tips for parents to help bring the gap between talking about the 6 skills during storytime, letting parents know what they can do at home.
- We have eliminated all fines on juvenile books.
- Different kinds of library cards (we use a large board card for babies)

- Tours for elementary school children (kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd graders) includes library card sign-up.
- We have a ladder for young children to reach counter at book checkout time.
- We are on the first name basis with elected officials to tell them how important early literacy is.
- Story vans (primarily in Klamath Falls) to child care providers monthly – includes two people reading storytime and doing mini-training for providers. Leave behind crafts and 10 books.
- We've produced interstitials – what happens in between – PBS filmed one minute stories that are run in between two PBS programs for kids.
- We offer *DIAL-A-STORY* – story changes every two weeks. These stories are recorded and saved on voicemail.
- We have teen volunteers (*Reading Buddies*) to read to kids.
- We offer *The Language is the Key* videos in English, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Chinese.
- We provide pictures and a media rich environment.
- Children are our priority: We converse and greet all persons (little and others) who come into the room. We serve, converse with, and love kids! Children are the key value in our children's room.
- We provide 150 FREE youth library cards, which allows us to serve kids who live in areas without supported public library services. We also offer these free cards to parents with younger children to provide access to families.
- We work with new immigrants, many of who have no concept of public libraries and books.
- We developed an Activity Center with age-appropriate learning materials.
- We feature letter awareness on our painted patio, including blank sections for kid-made sidewalk art.
- We publish a monthly newsletter for teen parents (provided to high school).
- Preschool teachers can “call in” to ask us to pull together our collections in support of their storytime programs at their preschools.
- We opened up a Children's Discovery Room in 1986, a children's space filled with hands-on interactive activities and exhibits (e.g. trains).
- We create song sheets to handout after activities.
- We have a volunteer greeter in our children's room – we also create theme or author-based models.

Training

- *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* trainings to child care providers and parents
- *Early Words* training to parents and providers in English & Spanish; *Early Words* groups – Head Start is offering *Early Words* classes to their own staff plus English and Spanish classes for the general community. Incentives include: free book giveaways to encourage parents and child care providers to visit the library; more books for care facility; and bookmobile visits to care sites, schools, and in-home

- caregivers; We offer *Early Words* training to caregivers, plus enhancement training (e.g. *Activities You Can Do With Concept Books*; and *New Books From Last Year*).
- Early Words Training of Trainers in partnership with the Oregon Center for Career Development in Early Childhood Care and Education at Portland State University
 - Summer Reading Programs: *Read to Me* component to encourage parents to read to their very young children. Summer Reading for Child Care (whole classrooms signed up by mail and prizes sent by mail)
 - *Raising A Reader* program: national program in 27 states, supported by the Library Foundation.
 - Caregiver education programs on brain research, etc. to help them provide quality care to children and to support their parent education efforts.
 - *Reach Out & Read* program: National program with pediatricians to exchange and convey early literacy information to get the message out to parents. Also trains volunteers to deliver storytimes in clinics.
 - *Books Without Barriers*: For parents who are in prison, tapes the parent reading and sends the tapes to the kids to enjoy. Parent education classes in prisons share techniques for using books to communicate with children.
 - On-site child care center training: 120 *Early Words* classes in Vietnamese, Russian, Spanish and English.
 - Outreach programs to drug treatment centers, public schools, and teen parent programs.
 - *Early Words* training to “about to be released” inmates.
 - Opportunities for adults to develop their literacy skills – listen to a story, discuss it, and practice reading it to children.
 - *Mother Goose Asks Why* training.
 - *Magic of Reading* delivered to Head Start parent nights.
 - *Zero-to-Three* parenting/learning together classes (with trained facilitators).
 - *Together for Children* monthly parenting classes and storytimes.
 - *Even Start* in English for moms & kids.
 - Coordinating grant efforts with other community organizations to bring *Early Words* training and *Magic of Early Reading* training – off-site workshops.
 - *Babies Sign Workshops* for parents (without babies) for hearing babies and toddlers (ASL).
 - ALL of our staff have been trained in the early brain research (the State Library did this at an All-Staff Training – no charge).
 - Workshops to train volunteers and staff, who then train “storytime providers” [Story Power/Carpet Square Management Tactics] offered on an as-needed basis for volunteers and new staff (not yet offered to the general public).
 - Our Early Childhood Resources Center focuses on providing parent education for underserved/parents in poverty. We partner with Neighborhood House, Portland Impact, Salvation Army, teen parents in recovery centers, and Healthy Start.
 - We do “storytime modeling” to show parents how to read to their child and answer other questions.
 - We offer approved child care provider training (Metro Resource & Referral partner) that provides credits and books to each attending child care provider.
 - We make teen parent visits to the local high school and provide *Mother Goose Asks Why* Training. We reinforce the teen parent’s bond with his/her baby.

- We offer training to students at Nannies Northwest Institute – training future nannies in early literacy with a generic *Public Library Intro* so they know what to expect (books, services, etc) from their local public library.

Outdoor Activities

- *Park & Read* events in the park during the summer (and at other outdoor environments).
- Planning to offer storytelling at Farmers Market (maybe with a volunteer).
- Our *Mobile Fun Unit* visits neighborhood parks (wagon of storytimes and activities).
- Bookmobile visits free lunch program sites at 2 elementary schools – we offer books without library cards, twice weekly (1x/week at schools). Unusual use of the bookmobile in the summer within Baker City. Less bureaucratic access to books without the use of library cards via bookmobile visits; Our bookmobile stops at in-home child care providers and preschools with *Storytime on Board*; our bookmobile makes 22 stops at 14 area preschools, Head Start, and child care centers – all receive storytimes, plus sheet with titles, songs, fingerplays, action rhymes as “leave behinds” for parents.
- *Lunch & Learn* program (Bend & LaPine) – special bookmobile visits.
- Joint programs with Central Oregon Parks & Recreation includes visit with bookmobile and SRP book giveaways.
- Outreach to summer camps, Title I schools (Summer Reading program also offered in Spanish), visits to parks (Parks & Rec partners).
- We have a Summer Bookmobile that stops at places where free lunches are served to children. We do sign up for Summer Reading Program (SRP) and preschool storytimes.

Partnerships with our Community

- Partnerships with Head Start – including presentations to parents attending monthly meetings at the library on early literacy.
- We listen to parents: our active listening led to the development of the *Kid Kits*.
- We participate in publisher-sponsored book giveaways.
- Outreach to teen moms and pregnant women in partnership with healthcare providers and school districts.
- Participation in Parent-Educators Networks
- *Library on Wheels*: vans stop at child care centers and in-home centers with picture books for 3-5 year olds.
- Waiting room collections in various locations (Department of Motor Vehicles; Salvation Army).
- Board books placed in the maternity wing of hospitals.
- *LIBROS* outreach: 9 hours of 25-30 storytimes delivered in Spanish to migrant worker camps each month, reaching 300+ children.

- Chair, Elementary School Site Council – allows me to leverage the public library with school influencers.
- Annual Head Start Day – coordinated event for families and teachers in Multnomah County, with library card signup, interpreters, storytimes, and free book giveaways.
- Baby Gift Program: Hospitals provide names of parents of newborns and we mail *Baby Kits* with a Baby Library Card, and coupons for free book (co-sponsored with mayors and county); Bags for newborns are delivered to hospitals, with information about why it is important to read to babies (for parents) and books for newborns. Encourages new parents (book is Goodnight Moon in English or Spanish). Includes a coupon that can be redeemed at the library for a toy and *Read to Me* magnet. Healthy Start also helps distribute growth charts / we help out at the library; Board books given to all newborns in Harney County.
- Outreach to corporate-based child care providers.
- Partnering with schools to work with the bilingual English As a Second Language kindergartens.
- Partnering with civic groups to make sure all kids can have library cards
- An innovative partnership between the Multnomah County Library and the Oregon Symphony brings *Symphony Storytimes* to four area libraries each season (for ages 2-7 and their parents). Musicians give life to the storytelling experience by choosing and/or composing music that best illustrates the story and the characteristics of their instrument.
- Library card recruitment outreach efforts (youth/adult services) to low income housing development and migrant worker camps.
- Presentations in the community: *How to Read to your kids* for parents of incoming kindergarteners; birth-3; and other groups.
- *Spotlight on Schools; Spotlight on Head Start* – programs targeting high risk children, designed for parents with younger siblings. Coordinated with the school library, includes tours, library cards, Open House, pizza, prizes, with a talk to parents about the importance of reading aloud.
- Working collaboratively with others in our community. Some examples include:
 - The Lane Library League helps with outreach to unserved areas of Lane County. *Cards for Kids* is one such program – supports the outreach efforts of 7 libraries to offer cards to non-residents through collaborative agreements (would like to expand this program to include all households with children);
 - Past LSTA grant & OCF-grant-funded school libraries plus the Tillamook Commission on Children & Families are working together on a project – making 100+ kits more. The Educational Service District has offered to store the kits until the new Tillamook Library building is completed. This partnership is aided by a delivery courier. Kits are in English and Spanish and will aid training for parents (delivered in Spanish).
 - Partnerships with Healthy Start and homeless shelters. We used to have the worst 1st and 3rd grade reading indicators, now we have the best! (Astoria)
 - Partnering with Even Start
 - Partnering with The Commission on Children, Families and Community
 - Partnering with the Oregon Center for Career Development in Early Childhood Care and Education at Portland State University

- Partnering with elementary schools to reach the children that didn't go to child care (may have been in family-provided care). We work with principals to reach the kids who are still at home. Early literacy classes are offered to K-1st graders. We ask the teachers to invite the younger siblings of these older kids and offer classes in Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian and English (offering food, free books, and parent manuals).
- A pilot program with OSU Extension, Community College, and the Food Bank: *Cooking and Learning with Children*. Includes books, models teaching new skills around food and nutrition, social eating together / learning together empowering
- Shared positions (community & school district) – high risk children are with relative/family-based caregivers. Early Childhood Education students are being trained as mentors to model how to read to children, reading kits, books, library lists, environmental assessment, and making at home visits.
- Partnering with elementary schools and early childhood schools to offer an after school program, plus *Parent Nights/Family Nights* as kick-off event to the start of classes.
- Working with WIC (Women, Infants, Children) program at the County Health Dept. We offer storytimes on WIC days once a week. Kids sit on the storytelling rug, and listen to music and books while their mothers visit the WIC nurse. Followed by free book giveaway to kids (In some counties, one hour of parent education is required to maintain eligibility for WIC program).
- At-Risk Centers: *Books & Babies* for parents of newborns.
- *Take Off!* and *Up & Away* programs are offered at the Salvation Army's school supply site to reach the most needy families.
- Relationship-building efforts in the community, including *Baby Fairs* (The Library is here... and everywhere).
- Attending the *Kindergarten Round-up* to reach out to the younger sibs of kindergarteners – Some parents don't feel comfortable in schools, so these events offer other times for parents to visit the schools.
- Visits to tribal child care centers – parents are also encouraged to bring their babies to storytimes. We say “YES” to all invitations – opportunity to become part of their community and to build trust. We attend pow-wows, dancing events, and spaghetti dinners.
- We show up at outside events in the kids' lives to build rapport with families. We attend teen parents' performance nights – they get to know us.
- Attending parent lunch support groups designed to increase parent participation in schools – many parents had a bad experience in school or have cultural discomfort because of their lack of English language skills. These events are held in the gym – not a classroom or a cafeteria. Title I Schools and Head Start has to provide parent education. These parent lunch support groups provide the meals and we provide the “brain food” – the program.
- Board books, posters at WIC Office and Health Dept. We are adding collections to their service sites.

- *First Books* for new babies – a group of grandmas visiting with baskets and new mommy tips – idea came from the hospitals to add a book to their baskets. We got a grant to purchase board books, so we shared the wealth.
- Healthy Start partnership: *Living & Learning with Infants and Toddlers*.
- Traveling storytellers to preschools, child care centers, elementary schools K-1st grades, WIC sites (food & nutrition programs).
- Programs for teen parenting at high schools.
- Participate in *Healthy Beginnings* screenings; children get books.
- *Together with Books*, a Central Oregon Pediatricians program that is part of *Ready Set Read* with doctors. Friends of the Library gave us funds to purchase free books and brochures for 10,000 children during their well child visits.
- Cardboard books purchased as part of *Ready Set Go* – given to firstborn child of every family in Deschutes County.
- Book bags are left at dentists' and doctors' waiting rooms for reading together.
- Health Dept. partnered on small grant to purchase books to give to nurses on home visits.
- *Kids First* – we are going door to door with library, police, fire dept and other community services to talk about early literacy.
- Healthy Start partnership *Welcome Baby* program.
- Partner with Hispanic orgs – *Latino Festival* (music & food)
- Member of the Oregon Reading Association.
- We stress the importance of reading to parents, and give literacy presentations to other groups.
- We meet the new kindergarteners and their parents: a school district grant together with a Barbara Bush Family Foundation grant supports this effort. The kindergarteners and their parents visit the library, learn how to use it, hear storytime, and promote SRP.
- We belong to Early Literacy Coalitions serving at risk children.
- We work with Family Support Centers.
- We belong to the Jackson County Association for the Education of Young Children (JCAYC). Together, we work with volunteers to offer parent trainings on early brain research, and relationship building with their children.
- Early childhood teachers at Rogue Community College and Southern Oregon University teach classes to students in early childhood development education – these students are learning to see the library as a resource.
- We have an Early Literacy Committee composed of staff who motivate all youth librarians to incorporate the latest research into their storytimes.
- We partner with the Oregon Childhood Development Coalition, and create bookmark invitations targeting parents of newborns at local hospitals.
- We provide books for home visits and welcome baby visits (in English and Spanish).
- Every spring and fall, we take bags of books to the Oregon Department of Employment, leaving books for the children of clients and coupons for free books.
- In Hood River, we have a *Families First Network* (pre-Healthy Start). We collaborate with Head Starts and Dept of Employment.

- We provide books in clinic/hospital waiting rooms, plus use the Home Visitors Network and the Child Care Partners Network to facilitate our outreach efforts (shared copies of a cool calendar and banner project from Ithaca, New York called *Rx New Baby*).
- We collaborate with our local Child Care Resources and Referral Network and offer *View & Reflect* videos aids used to train/test child care providers.
- We partner with English as a Second Language teachers to do outreach to low-income housing units. We took our Summer Reading Program to their home, made it available to all ages, including parents, and watched participation mushroom.
- We partner with local churches, using their vans to bring kids to our special programs (e.g. Snake Man).
- We have a Youth Literacy Coalition – partner with service organizations to give away free books (Reading is Fundamental).
- We provide free books to homeless shelters and shelters for battered spouses (who go there with their children).
- We provide collections of books to waiting rooms in doctor’s office and clinics.
- We belong to our Storytellers Guild – which trains volunteers to present storytimes at child care centers and housing developments.
- We have a Children’s Bookmobile that visits high school child care centers for teen parents and other center locations. We partner with Kids on the Block, latchkey programs, and make other community stops where young children and their parents gather. We park the Bookmobile and do programs.
- Despite a lack of tax-supported libraries, we’ve partnered to offer FREE library cards (for ages 0-14).
- We’ve partnered with the Virginia Garcia Clinic to establish a collection of Spanish language picture books (85).
- Community leaders are invited to the library to read aloud on a theme (e.g. Chief of Police).
- We encourage our staff to read “A Framework for Understanding Poverty” (a must-read title if you plan to do outreach to persons of low income).