

***A Framework For Action – What Libraries Can Do to Improve Early Literacy
Oregon Statewide Early Literacy Initiative***

Libraries serve an important role in promoting early literacy skills in babies, toddlers, and preschool children. Already, libraries promote these skills through access to books, storytimes, parenting information, knowledgeable staff, and much more. Below are several concrete ways you can encourage children, parents, and caregivers to develop reading and language proficiency in four different areas: Early Literacy Materials/Collections, Atmosphere/Children’s Environments, Programming, and Training & Staff Development.

Some libraries may have more defined early literacy programs than others. You may be starting a program (First Steps) or be improving an already great program (Giant Steps). *Check off the activities that you’re already doing.* Even if you don’t have an early literacy program, you may be surprised by how much you’re already doing to prepare children to read in all three areas. And even if you’ve been working with early literacy for a long time, you may find ideas in First, Next, or Giant Steps that may help you enhance your activities. Regardless as to where you’re at in your program, we hope that this document inspires you to further help the children in your communities.

INPUT: Early Literacy Materials/Collections To ensure that all libraries have high quality and adequate quantity of materials that support early literacy...		
FIRST STEPS	NEXT STEPS	GIANT STEPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have collections of materials for children ages 0-5 <input type="checkbox"/> Board books, toddler books, picture books <input type="checkbox"/> Make these collections easy to find <input type="checkbox"/> CDs, DVDs <input type="checkbox"/> Have materials for parents and caregivers including books, parenting magazines, and videos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Buy more picture books and board books <input type="checkbox"/> Have collections of materials for parents and caregivers <input type="checkbox"/> Have handouts for parents and caregivers <input type="checkbox"/> Brochures, booklists, and booklets of children’s rhymes <input type="checkbox"/> Bookmarks, brochures, and booklists <input type="checkbox"/> Start with Public Library Association website (www.pla.org) and the Department of Education literacy site (www.ed.gov) for free booklets and downloads <input type="checkbox"/> Offer picture books and board books in languages other than English <input type="checkbox"/> Circulate tubs of books to early education sites and child care facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Circulate toys (like puppets, puzzles, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Create simple theme kits, bags, totes, etc. (Something simple, like one book, one cassette, and one puppet) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create more detailed Theme Bags <input type="checkbox"/> Create and circulate bags for parents and caregivers of babies <input type="checkbox"/> Offer more picture books and board books in more languages other than English <input type="checkbox"/> Offer resources for parents and caregivers in languages other than English <input type="checkbox"/> Provide resources and materials for parents and caregivers about early literacy <input type="checkbox"/> Create Baby Bags (not themed) for children from birth to 18 months, including resources for parents in languages other than English <input type="checkbox"/> Create Preschool Theme Bags in languages other than English <input type="checkbox"/> Create an early literacy website for parents and caregivers with information about early literacy research and brain development, activities to foster literacy development, booklists, and children’s rhymes <input type="checkbox"/> Circulate tubs of books to early education sites and child care facilities

VISION: All children ready to learn to read when they begin kindergarten

This grant project is supported in whole or part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library.

*A Framework For Action – What Libraries Can Do to Improve Early Literacy
Oregon Statewide Early Literacy Initiative*

INPUT: Early Literacy Materials/Collections		
To ensure that all libraries have high quality and adequate quantity of materials that support early literacy...		
FIRST STEPS	NEXT STEPS	GIANT STEPS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create DVD or VHS of best ways for adults to share books with children <input type="checkbox"/> Create “Crayons” of activities that foster early literacy skill development for parents <input type="checkbox"/> Find funding for a Parenting Collection in every library

VISION: All children ready to learn to read when they begin kindergarten

This grant project is supported in whole or part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library.