

***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: Programming To ensure that all libraries provide high quality early literacy programs...		
FIRST STEPS	NEXT STEPS	GIANT STEPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Offer storytimes for preschoolers <input type="checkbox"/> Offer the Statewide Summer Reading Program with “Read To Me” component <input type="checkbox"/> Add a preschooler’s component to your Summer Reading Program 	<p><u>Storytimes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Offer baby storytimes <input type="checkbox"/> Offer toddler storytimes <input type="checkbox"/> Offer storytimes in the library for visiting groups from early education sites and child care facilities <p><u>Other Children’s Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Integrate a book giveaway component into a program <input type="checkbox"/> Offer the Teen Version of the Statewide Summer Reading Program in conjunction with the “Read To Me” component for teen parents and their children <input type="checkbox"/> Explore the use of trained volunteers in order to expand your children’s programming <p><u>Literacy Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Offer early literacy programs for parents and caregivers <p><u>Community Outreach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Offer storytimes at early education sites and child care facilities 	<p><u>Storytimes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Offer developmentally appropriate storytimes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Babies 0-12 months <input type="checkbox"/> Tiny Tots 12-24 months <input type="checkbox"/> Toddlers 24-36 months <input type="checkbox"/> Preschoolers 36-60 months <input type="checkbox"/> Family Time for children of all ages <input type="checkbox"/> Bilingual Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Offer storytimes in the library in languages other than English <input type="checkbox"/> Offer StoryStop – spontaneous opportunities to read aloud to children anytime during library’s open hours <input type="checkbox"/> Offer storytimes at social service agencies, early education sites and child care facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Offer programming (storytimes) at summer lunch sites <p><u>Other Children’s Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Offer sign language for babies workshops (Baby Sign) <input type="checkbox"/> Offer music workshops

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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Host a gathering of early literacy community partners (see sample agendas) <input type="checkbox"/> Explore local business and community support for giveaway books 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Offer physical movement sessions (sessions that integrate language, literacy and movement) <input type="checkbox"/> Add a “Read to Me” component to your Summer Reading Program <input type="checkbox"/> Create a school readiness program or fair for parents of incoming kindergarteners <input type="checkbox"/> Train Foster Grandparents, Teens or other volunteers to expand your children’s programs <input type="checkbox"/> Create a <i>Read to the Dogs</i> program: reading encouragement for the reluctant reader <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate all of your programs to prove their effectiveness <p><u>Literacy Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Offer teen parent programs <input type="checkbox"/> Offer Early Words sessions for parents and caregivers <input type="checkbox"/> Offer Every Child Ready To Read @ Your Library sessions <input type="checkbox"/> Offer a Book Group for parents to read and discuss parenting books <input type="checkbox"/> Offer Early Words or Every Child Ready to Read workshops for parents in the library or in social service and community agencies to reach highest need families <input type="checkbox"/> Partner with elementary schools to offer parent workshops in early literacy for families with kindergarten and first grade children and their younger siblings

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work with the Oregon Center for Career Development in Child Care and Education to get your workshops approved for educational credit hours to satisfy the Child Care Division requirements <p><u>Community Outreach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explore outreach to more partners (like health care) <input type="checkbox"/> Convene a meeting of early childhood partners to discuss a collaborative project <input type="checkbox"/> Host an early childhood fair at your library or, if there is one in existence, set up a booth for the library <input type="checkbox"/> Propose a session at your local AEYC conference or other early childhood professional group to discuss early literacy partnerships with child care providers in your community <input type="checkbox"/> Offer newborn gift packets to all first births, including a free book and Baby's First Library Card <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach through food banks – provide books in bags of food <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach programs to Head Start <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach for Library card recruitment to low income housing developments and migrant worker camps <input type="checkbox"/> Partner with health care providers to provide books to children birth to 5 years and prescriptions for their parents to read with them 20 minutes a day <input type="checkbox"/> Work with all high schools to talk to teen parents about the importance of reading aloud with their children <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate for an early literacy component to the core curriculum of the Department of Education (to

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		enhance Teen Parent programs) <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange for a speaker about early literacy research or the economic benefit of investing in early childhood programs; collaborate with other organizations to sponsor event

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