

***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.

<b>INPUT: Training &amp; Staff Development</b>		
To encourage library staff to actively seek out personal development opportunities and build upon their early literacy knowledge...		
<b>FIRST STEPS</b>	<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<b>GIANT STEPS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Read a new children’s book every week</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Join the kids-lib listserv (<a href="http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/kids-lib">http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/kids-lib</a>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Practice talking with babies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Read an article about early literacy and/or child development (see appendix for suggestions)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Visit a website about early literacy (see appendix)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Call the youth services consultant at the state library (Katie Anderson, Youth Services Consultant, Oregon State Library, 503-387-2528)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Go to the Next Steps section and do one thing on that list</li> </ul>	<p><u>Books &amp; Literacy Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Join PUBYAC</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Read a book about early literacy and/or child development (see appendix for ideas)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check out a title from Oregon State Library’s collection</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sign up for an early childhood newsletter online (see appendix for ideas)</li> </ul> <p><u>Training &amp; Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take advantage of an early literacy training opportunity (for instance OLA Services Division, OAEYC, State Library, your local community college, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create a personal development plan to develop your early literacy skills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Go to the Giant Steps section and do one thing on that list</li> </ul> <p><u>Reaching Out to Others</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Join a professional support organization (OLA’s</li> </ul>	<p><u>Books &amp; Literacy Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Keep abreast of early literacy research by reading new books and online</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to an early childhood newsletter online</li> </ul> <p><u>Training &amp; Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend a PLA or ALA workshop on Every Child Ready To Read @ Your Library</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend national conferences about early literacy – Every Child Ready to Read @ your library and PLA Spring Symposium</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participate in local early literacy education and training opportunities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Become an Early Words Trainer</li> </ul> <p><u>Reaching Out to Others</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Join your county’s Early Childhood Team (sponsored by the Commission on Children and Families)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Offer early literacy training to other professionals, such as at OAEYC &amp; OLA conferences</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gather youth librarians from neighboring libraries to</li> </ul>

**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.*

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<b>FIRST STEPS</b>	<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<b>GIANT STEPS</b>
	Children Service’s Division, OAEYC, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to a youth librarian at a neighboring library <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to your director about early literacy <input type="checkbox"/> Ask for time on your library board’s agenda to talk about early literacy <input type="checkbox"/> Attend meetings of your county’s Early Childhood Team (sponsored by the Commission on Children and Families)	discuss early literacy <input type="checkbox"/> Convene a meeting of community partners concerned about early literacy to discuss how to work together <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in OLA’s Children Service’s Division <input type="checkbox"/> Establish ongoing training and development opportunities for staff <input type="checkbox"/> Find and create more partnerships with others (e.g. Latino agencies) <input type="checkbox"/> Present to local authorities and city councils. Tell them that libraries are vital to the health of the community

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