

## History of RFHF

In 1995, a federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant was awarded to a consortium of libraries in seven counties that offered Healthy Start home visiting programs. This grant funded the pilot program Reading for Healthy Start. This program provided Healthy Start family support workers with literacy related activities, reading material, and educational videos to share during home visits with the families they served. Additional LSCA funding was obtained in 1996-1997 to expand the program to serve more counties with Healthy Start programs; however no long-term plan to continue Reading for a Healthy Start was ever developed.

As federal funding for training and materials diminished, many libraries and Healthy Start programs had to limit or discontinue literacy related training and activities. Today, with the support of Oregon Community Foundation Ready to Learn grants, as well as local and private investments, many counties offer limited literacy training and related activities for families during home visits, at libraries or in other early childhood settings. However, up until RFHF was fully funded, no comprehensive plan was in place to coordinate these efforts and ensure their sustainability.

In June 2006, the Oregon Commission on Children and Families and the Oregon State Library received a planning grant from the Oregon Community Foundation to develop a comprehensive plan for statewide early literacy training of Healthy Start family support workers and children's library to ensure sustainability. The Commission and State Library assembled an oversight committee comprised of Healthy Start family support workers, children's librarians, and other early childhood professionals to:

- Assess current early literacy activities.
- Identify counties with the greatest need for early literacy activities.
- Identify counties who are most ready to receive training, and who can apply their training by implementing early literacy activities locally.
- Develop a comprehensive, sustainable, statewide early literacy training program for Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff.

In June 2008 the Commission and State Library received matching grants from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation to implement Reading for Healthy Families Oregon: Building Communities of Learning (RFHF).

RFHF seeks to train Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff on evidenced-based early literacy curriculum across the state, and to work directly with high-risk families to help them increase the school readiness of their young children. The long-term vision for this project is that all families in Oregon will have the knowledge, skills, and access to resources necessary to provide positive, educational experiences children need to be ready for school when they start kindergarten.

To achieve these outcomes, approximately 300 Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will be recruited to participate in this three-year project. Each participant will commit to attending two intensive two-day trainings. A simple application process will be utilized to encourage participation and demonstrate a commitment to improving early literacy in local communities and to the long term vision of the project. Local Healthy Start programs and libraries will fill out and submit one application. Submitting the application together, with their supervisors signatures, demonstrates their commitment to the developing a local early literacy network, attending both two-day trainings, and providing early literacy training to a minimum of 15 families within a year of their first training.

As part of the commitment to the project, Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will provide early literacy education to 15 families over the course of the year they participate in the project—5 families after their first two-day training, and 10 families after their second two-day training. A total of 4,500 families will be served over the three years.

RFHF expands on the Reading for Healthy Start program and establishes sustainable early literacy programs in local communities by:

- Developing a network of Healthy Start family support workers and their local libraries.
- Providing three years of intensive early literacy training statewide to both Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff.
- Training Master Trainers who will be available to conduct trainings on a contractual basis after the three years of training provided by RFHF.
- Establishing a website of resources that will be maintained and updated indefinitely by the Oregon State Library's Youth Services Consultant.
- Providing early literacy consulting services as needed by the Oregon State Library's Youth Services Consultant.

RFHF incorporates the following recommendations from the Oregon Commission on Children and Families and the 2005 Statewide Early Literacy Planning Initiative:

- Expand and coordinate early literacy training statewide
- Establish and sustain relationships with key early childhood stakeholders (i.e. Healthy Start and children's library staff)
- Provide ongoing literacy support such as access to resources, support groups, books for families to keep, and increase the number of and availability of books in other languages
- Train Healthy Start family support workers in evidence-based early literacy curriculum

RFHF supports the findings of Oregon! Ready to Learn's Final Evaluation Report (September 2005), and addresses the following goals of the Commission, State Library, and Oregon Library Association:

- Oregon's Healthy Start Full Credential from the national Healthy Families America initiative that ensures that Oregon's Healthy Start program meets the highest research-based standards for home visiting services to parents and their children;
- Oregon State Library Goal 3: Lead public libraries to achieve excellence in services to children.
- Oregon Benchmark #18: Percent of Oregon children entering school ready-to-learn.
- State Library Agency Initiative to continue basic youth services training and efforts to educate on best practices; and use recommendations of the Statewide Early Literacy Planning Initiative to improve the program;
- Oregon Library Association's Vision 2010: Children and adults have access to quality educational programs at all levels; libraries promote the joy and lifelong benefits of reading; Oregonians consider libraries an essential community service; Oregon libraries collaboratively develop relevant continuing education opportunities to address needs in Oregon communities; the people of Oregon recognize libraries as key in the development of the love of reading and lifelong learning; Oregon libraries design and target services in response to community needs.
- Oregon Library Association's Vision 2010 Call to Action: To Serve Every Child—Nurture the joy of reading by providing every child in Oregon with quality library services from both public and school libraries.

RFHF represents a statewide commitment to increase early childhood literacy skills, to improve family engagement around reading, and increase healthy parent-child interactions at the county level. Through this project, parents will learn the skills and how to access the resources they need to help their child be ready to learn when they start kindergarten.

# Reading for Healthy Families (RFHF) Oregon Building Communities of Learning

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families and the Oregon State Library are excited to announce the Reading for Healthy Families (RFHF) Oregon: Building Communities of Learning project, an early literacy and community engagement effort. This opportunity will provide evidenced-based training and resources for Healthy Start programs and children's library staff, who will then provide early literacy education, support and resources to families in communities across Oregon.

The goal of RFHF is to train 300 Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff statewide on the evidenced-based Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library curriculum. After receiving the training, Healthy Start and children's library staff will provide early literacy education, support and resources to 4,500 families with children 0-5 years old throughout Oregon over the course of three years, to help increase school readiness.

Twelve Every Child Ready Trainers, and 300 trained and experienced Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff, along with their supervisors and local site coordinators will develop local networks to sustain early literacy training, education and support.

Four regions made up of multiple counties will be selected for the Reading for Healthy Families project each year. All 36 counties will be covered over the three year period of the project.

*A partnership of the Oregon State Library and Oregon Commission on Children and Families with generous support from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Foundation.*



## ***Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library*** **Certified Trainers and Certified Training Sessions**

### **Master Trainer**

The certified Oregon Registry Master Trainer conducts the *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* Training of Trainers. The Training of Trainers is approved and certified as Oregon Registry Set Two Training and as an Oregon Registry Trainer Program Training of Trainers session.

Oregon is fortunate to have a Master Trainer who is also a National Trainer for *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library*.

### **Every Child Ready Trainers**

The trainers who complete the Training of Trainers: *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* will be Oregon Registry certified Standardized Trainers in *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library*. Their short title will be “Every Child Ready Trainers”

The Every Child Ready Trainers will be certified to conduct the three *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* workshops. The three workshops are approved and certified as Oregon Registry Set One Training and as Oregon Registry Trainer Program standardized training sessions.

The three certified workshops are:

- *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library*: Print Motivation, Vocabulary, and Reading Books
- *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library*: Print Awareness, Narrative Skills, and Dialogic Reading
- *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library*: Phonological Awareness, Letter Knowledge, and Phonological Awareness Games

The Every Child Ready Certified Trainers will conduct a 2-day training session for Healthy Start Family Support workers (FSW) and children’s library staff (LS) in which they will present, in their entirety, the three certified *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* workshops.

The Every Child Ready Certified Trainers may also conduct any or all of the certified three *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* workshops for other audiences for free or a fee.

*A partnership of the Oregon State Library and Oregon Commission on Children and Families with generous support from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Foundation.*



## **Reading for Healthy Families (RFHF) Cohorts Early Literacy Educaiton, Support and Resources**

### **Healthy Start Family Support Workers (FSW) & Children’s Library Staff (LS)**

Healthy Start family support workers and children’s library staff will be recruited to participate in the Reading for Healthy Families project within specific regions, including groups of counties.

Healthy Start family support workers and children’s library staff will receive two separate two-day training sessions. They will receive intensive training in the Public Library Association’s *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* early literacy curriculum, and will learn how to work with at-risk families and provide outreach services. They will receive targeted training on special topics such as working with English language learners, working with children with special needs, conducting early literacy story times, and setting up library visits and library cards. Their supervisors will be invited to receive training and information regarding partnerships, sustainable early literacy programs, and marketing.

The FSW/LS who complete the three *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* early literacy curriculum workshops, will receive an Oregon Registry Set One certificate for each *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* workshop.

### **Early Literacy Education, Support, and Resources**

After the first two-day training session, each participating FSW/LS will have the knowledge, skills and materials to provide early literacy education, support, and resources to families in their community.

The FSW/LS will have a variety of resources from which to provide education and support to families. They will have options to use some or all point-of-contact resources, such as: “On the Go” early literacy activities for parents; individual activities and games from the workshops; and felt board stories, finger puppets, story books, and resource/activity books on story times.

The three *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* workshops will be divided into a series of one-hour-long parent education sessions. The FSW/LS may also use these resources in their family education and support activities. These hour-long parent education sessions will be called:

**Print Motivation: I Love Words!**  
**Vocabulary: I Know Words!**  
**Print Awareness: I See Words!**  
**Narrative Skills: I Can Tell a Story!**  
**Phonological Awareness: I Hear Words!**  
**Letter Knowledge: I Know Letters!**

**Six Skills: I'm Ready for Reading!**  
**Reading Books: I Love Books!**  
**Dialogic Reading: I Can Read!**  
**Phonological Awareness games: I Can Rhyme!**  
**Brain Development: I Can Think!**

*A partnership of the Oregon State Library and Oregon Commission on Children and Families with generous support from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Foundation.*



## Reading for Healthy Families (RFHF) Cohorts Local Community Networks

### Early Literacy Networks

Developing local early literacy networks within each community is one of the goals of RFHF. Therefore, Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff who are interested in participating in the RFHF project must apply together and submit one application.

RFHF will provide Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff with education, resources and support to develop sustainable resource sharing among networks and early literacy services to families.

RFHF will foster partnerships between libraries and Healthy Start programs in each county. Healthy Start programs will help children's library staff develop or expand library outreach services to high-risk families in every community. And, children's library staff will help Healthy Start staff and the families they serve access resources, services, and programs at the library.

Each region will select two Site Coordinators to facilitate networking and communication for selected RFHF Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff. Site Coordinators will also help the RFHF Project Coordinator make local arrangements such as recommending caterers and hotels in the area. Site Coordinators will also receive a stipend for their coordination efforts.

*A partnership of the Oregon State Library and Oregon Commission on Children and Families with generous support from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Foundation.*



## Reading for Healthy Families (RFHF) Cohorts Local Community Sustainability

### Early Literacy Sustainability

The participating Every Child Ready Certified Trainers will each receive a complete Every Child Ready Certified Trainer Box including certified *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* workshop scripts, handouts, Power Point presentations, and DVDs. The Certified Trainer Box is theirs to keep after the project is over, and they will be encouraged to continue providing the three *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* workshops for additional library staff, Healthy Start staff, Head Start staff, preschool teachers, and family child care providers.

The participating Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will each receive a complete RFHF Resource Kit, free of charge, including scripts for parent education sessions, handouts, DVDs, point-of-contact resources, and early literacy resource materials. The RFHF Resource Kit is theirs to keep after the project is over, and they will be encouraged to continue providing early literacy educational opportunities for families in their community.

A training session on the afternoon of the second day will be conducted for the supervisors of Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff. This special training and networking session will provide information and tool kits regarding marketing early literacy programs, networking, sustaining early literacy efforts, and locating and activating early literacy resources.

The State Library will provide indefinite support by maintaining and updating the RFHF website with current early literacy resources, maintaining an electronic discussion list for RFHF participants and by providing consulting services as needed.

*A partnership of the Oregon State Library and Oregon Commission on Children and Families with generous support from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Foundation.*



# Reading for Healthy Families (RFHF)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Who?

The Oregon State Library and Oregon Commission on Children and Families received matching grants from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation to develop a cadre of 12 Standardized Trainers who will be certified by Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education. The Trainers will then train 300 Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff to provide point-of-contact early literacy training to 4,500 families with children 0-5 years old over the course of three years.

### What?

Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will receive training in early literacy and other related topics in order to provide point-of-contact early literacy training to at-risk families throughout the State of Oregon. Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will attend two, two-day trainings. During the first two-day training, family support workers and children's library staff will receive intensive training from the Public Library Association's *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library*® early literacy curriculum and they will enhance their skills for working with at-risk families, provide outreach services, and strategies for developing effective community partnerships. At the completion of the first training, Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will have three months to provide early literacy training to at least 5 families. The second two-day training will take place three months after the first training. During the second training, they will review *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library*®, discuss their experiences providing early literacy training to families and receive targeted training on special topics, such as working with English language learners, working with children with special needs, conducting early literacy storytimes, advocacy, resource development, and more. After the second two-day training, Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will be required to provide training to an additional 10 families.

### Where?

Trainings for Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will be conducted locally in the following 12 regions:

- Washington
- Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Yamhill
- Hood River/Wasco/Sherman, Gilliam/Wheeler
- Grant, Harney, Morrow, Umatilla
- Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Polk
- Douglas, Lane
- Coos, Curry
- Crook, Deschutes/Jefferson, Klamath, Lake
- Multnomah
- Clackamas, Marion
- Jackson, Josephine
- Baker, Malheur, Union, Wallowa

## How?

The Oregon Community Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation have generously provided matching grants that will total approximately \$744,000 over the course of the three years of the project. The Oregon Commission on Children and Families and the Oregon State Library are committed to providing in-kind resources estimated at \$50,000. The Oregon State Library will manage a RFHF electronic discussion list, website, and consulting services indefinitely to ensure sustainability. Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will keep their RFHF resource kits to continue conducting early literacy trainings for families, storytimes, and model one-on-one book sharing after the completion of the grant in May 2011. RFHF will foster the development of local networks that will help Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff develop sustainable resource sharing and early literacy services to families.

## When?

The three-year project begins as of June 1, 2008 and ends May 31, 2011. The first training for Standardized Trainers will take place in September 2008, the first training for Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff will take place in October 2008. Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff may only participate in RFHF when it is offered to their county. This is necessary for the evaluation process that will take place throughout the project and one year after it is complete.

The training schedule was developed based on the results of a 2006 survey, which asked Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff about their readiness level to receive early literacy training and participate in RFHF. It also gathered information about the Commission and State Library's knowledge of current staffing or operating issues in libraries and Healthy Starts as of Spring 2008, and the percentage of parents reading to their children in each county as reported in Healthy Start of Oregon 2006-2007 Status Report. Logistics also played a role in developing the training schedule. The RFHF budget supports training for approximately 100 staff each year. A training cohort must be comprised of counties geographically in close proximity to keep travel to a minimum, and the statewide Healthy Start network is structured in a way that regionalizes several counties together so those counties can participate in RFHF together.

## Why?

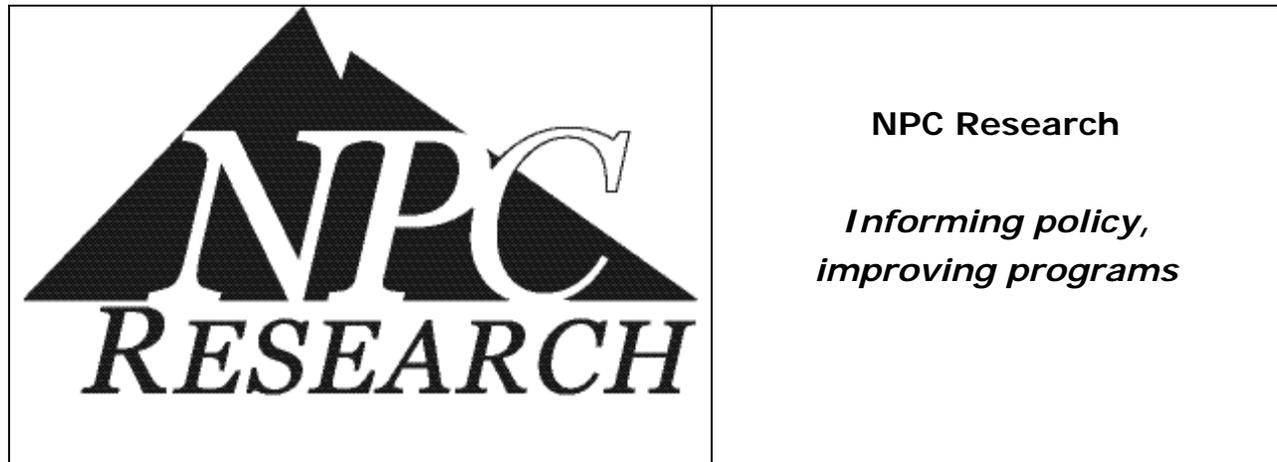
In 2005 Multnomah County Library received an Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to plan and implement the Oregon Statewide Early Literacy Initiative which brought together early childhood experts, professionals, and practitioners together to assess the state of early childhood in the State. The Initiative recommended that the libraries provide early literacy training to parents, childcare providers, and preschool teachers. In 2006 Healthy Start family support workers requested additional early literacy training and resources and in Fall 2006, 20% of children in Oregon were not ready to learn when they started kindergarten.



# Evaluation of Reading for Healthy Families

## Research Measures and Reports

- ◆ NPC Research will work with OCCF and partners to develop a project logic model to guide program implementation and outcome measurement
- ◆ NPC, working with OCCF and other partners, will identify and/or develop indicators of key parent outcomes for the project (e.g., percentage of families visiting the library, percentage of families reading to their children daily).
- ◆ NPC, working with OCCF and other partners, will develop a survey instrument to measure FSW and library staff existing (pre-training) practices and skills.
- ◆ NPC, working with OCCF and other partners, approximately 7 months after each first training, will inquire about the types of practices that staff implemented, what prior practices have been changed/modified, and successes/challenges with implementing lessons from the training.
- ◆ NPC will conduct two focus groups, one with library staff and one with Healthy Start staff, who have participated in the RFHF training, to collect information about the process of implementing literacy activities with parents, barriers to implementation, and to identify areas in need of improvement or adjustment in the training process or program implementation.
- ◆ NPC will review training evaluation data to supplement information learned from the two focus groups.
- ◆ NPC will conduct a stakeholder focus group with OCCF and Library staff to identify overall “lessons learned” in implementing the project, including major project successes, challenges, and mechanisms for sustainability following grant completion.
- ◆ NPC will analyze parent, staff, and focus group data and prepare an annual report of program implementation and outcomes.



## **History**

Founded in 1989 by Dr. Michael W. Finigan, NPC Research (Northwest Professional Consortium, Inc.), focused its research efforts initially at the community level, primarily in the form of evaluations of Multnomah County programs. The consortium model developed during the early 1990s as Dr. Finigan collaborated with experts in the fields of crime prevention, substance abuse, and adolescent risk behavior, among other areas.

In 1997 the permanent staff began to grow. Additional research staff, including Dr. Beth Green, Dr. Juliette Mackin, and Dr. Shannon Carey were hired in 1998 and 1999, and the growth warranted a move from West Linn, Oregon, to historic, renovated offices in the Johns Landing area of Portland. NPC remained in the area when it moved in 2004 to a new location in the River Forum 1 building, located on the Willamette River.

The number of projects has increased in recent years to include numerous county, state and federal grants. NPC specializes in research and evaluation pertaining to crime prevention, drug courts, child welfare, substance abuse treatment, substance abuse prevention, co-occurring disorders, jail diversion, domestic violence, juvenile justice, adolescent risk and behavior pertaining to substance abuse and violence, mentorship, early childhood intervention, and program cost/benefit analysis.

## **Our Mission**

NPC Research provides quality social services evaluation, policy analysis and research. We are dedicated to improving the effectiveness of human services offered to children, families, and communities. Our highly skilled staff work closely with community partners and policymakers to implement research strategies that provide timely answers to policy-relevant questions. To achieve our mission, we create a supportive work environment that fosters productivity, cultural responsiveness, and creativity.

## **Our Approach to Research and Evaluation**

A team approach to project management and implementation enables us to offer clients access to a wealth of experiences and skills. Our research staff is skilled in:

- evaluation research design
- measurement development and testing, including adolescent risk and strengths assessments
- organizing and managing complex, multi-site projects
- consultation and training for community-based programs
- gathering and compiling archival and administrative data
- quantitative data analysis
- qualitative data analysis
- program development

NPC Research strives to involve key stakeholders in the development, implementation, and interpretation of the research to ensure that information produced is timely, relevant, and useful. As facilitators, we provide technical assistance, feedback, and coordination throughout a project. Our collective experience in developing and implementing evaluation, research, and training projects has taught us to be aware of emerging complications and unexpected issues, and to solve problems creatively.

