

ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS



ARIZONA LIBRARIES PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN SCHOOL READINESS

Public libraries provide:

Access

- to information about the vital role parents and childcare providers play in preparing children for school
- to the books that children need to have in their everyday lives

Programs

- that help parents and childcare providers understand their roles as children's first, most important teachers
- that model best practices for parents and childcare providers through high-quality children's programming delivered by librarians knowledgeable in the pre-reading skills

Resources for parents and childcare providers to use the strategies that they have learned to prepare their children to be successful in school

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records provides:

- **Funding** from the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services
- **Training** by offering workshops that help library staff members, volunteers, and their community partners develop their skills in early literacy
- **Consulting Services** through site visits and ongoing support by professionals knowledgeable in the areas of early literacy and library services to children and families

Examples of the many projects being conducted throughout the state are highlighted below.

Building a New Generation of Readers (<http://www.lib.az.us/extension/BuildingANewGeneration.pdf>)

- A statewide early literacy project designed by the Arizona State Library, Building a New Generation of Readers provides public and school librarians with the tools and materials to teach parents and childcare providers strategies for preparing children to come to school ready to read.
- The Arizona State Library supplies libraries with the Public Library Association's *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* materials that are based on current federally funded research and have been evaluated and found to have significant influence on the early literacy behaviors of parents and childcare providers. Thirty-six libraries throughout the state are participating in the first year of this initiative.

Family Place (<http://www.lff.org/programs/family.html>)

- Workshops facilitated by librarians in the 32 Arizona Family Place sites for children ages 1-3 and their parents and caregivers feature professionals from community agencies who provide information and answer questions informally while children and parents or caregivers interact with books and toys or work on an art project.
- The Arizona State Library partners with Libraries for the Future in supporting this project.

Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library's Literacy Begins at Home

- Workshops which included a family storytime, presentation of literacy development and library services information, and the distribution of free books were held for the Early Head Start program, the Teenage Parenting program, the Mom-to-Mom Support Group, and the Healthy Families program.
- Over 100 families attended workshops and an additional 119 families had literacy information and books distributed to their homes by Healthy Families family service workers. A total of over 1700 children's books of varying age and reading levels were distributed to families during the 2003-2004 grant period.

La Paz County Libraries' Healthy Babies/Healthy Readers

- New parents, grandparents, and daycare providers who visited the La Paz County Health Department, WIC program, and Indian Health Services Hospital were given a goodie bag containing a baby picture frame magnet with library hours, a bookmark, and information about library services in La Paz County to encourage them to begin reading to the babies in their care.
- During the 2003-2004 grant period, 500 parents, grandparents, or guardians, brought the coupon from their bag to a La Paz County library or its bookmobile to trade for a free board book.

Tucson-Pima Public Library's Ready to Read

- Partnering with Child and Family Resources, the library trained 43 in-home childcare providers during 2003-2004 in early brain development as it relates to early literacy and pre-reading.
- For the last class session, families attended. Storytimes were held and information was given to parents.