



## Libraries provide

- **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 provides

- **Funding** from the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services



## Arizona State Library provides

- **Training** by offering workshops that help library staff members, volunteers, and their community partners develop their skills in early literacy



## Early Literacy Projects

- Individual libraries have early literacy projects funded by LSTA grants through the Arizona State Library.



## Arizona State Library provides

- **Consulting Services** through site visits and ongoing support by professionals knowledgeable in the areas of early literacy and library services to children and families



## Early Literacy Space

- The following grants either focused on or included improving spaces to help develop early literacy skills in children.
  - Ready to Learn Centers
    - City of Scottsdale Public Library System
  - Early Learning Interactive Centers
    - City of Scottsdale Public Library System
  - Model Projects to Enhance First Five Years Public Spaces
    - Phoenix Public Library
  - Hand in Hand Early Literacy Center
    - Apache Junction Public Library

## Early Literacy Space

- Two grants used LSTA funding to provide alternative early literacy space – books and activities to promote early literacy without a library building!
  - PALSmobile Project
    - Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library

## La Paz County Libraries' Healthy Babies/Healthy Readers

- Goodie bags for new parents, grandparents, and daycare providers with
  - a baby picture frame magnet with library hours
  - a bookmark
  - information about library services in La Paz County
- Partners
  - La Paz County Health Department
  - WIC program
  - Indian Health Services Hospital
- 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.

## Chandler Public Library's Daycare Delivery

- Delivery of children's books, games, & learning activity materials to licensed in-home day care providers with the Read, Learn, Connect van
- Used volunteers from the community who were trained to read to specific ages and teach the materials accompanying certain books



## Scottsdale Public Library's Born to Read

- Materials
  - provided in the birthing units of local hospitals
  - raised parent awareness of library and city services available to them and their children.
- Partners
  - Scottsdale Healthcare
  - City of Scottsdale

## Early Literacy Materials

- Other projects focused on providing materials.
  - Enriching the Preschool Experience through Library Materials
    - Pima County Community College District
    - Materials to support early literacy for the Early Childhood Education program and community users

## Early Literacy Workshops

- Literacy Begins at Home
  - Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library
  - Literacy development information and free books were also distributed.
- Bonding with Baby
  - Phoenix Public Library
  - Workshops and resources focused on pre-talkers and their parents.
- 1-2-3 Read Tempe!
  - Tempe Public Library
  - Unique elements included reading readiness screenings, Leap Pad units, and a Library Card Campaign for preschoolers.
- Connecting Infant Caregivers with Trained Early Intervention Professionals
  - Show Low Public Library
  - An extension of Family Place, workshops connected families with resources.
- Walk with Me
  - San Xavier District – Learning Center Library
  - Staff and parents were trained in addition to providing readiness activities for preschoolers.

## Yuma County Public Library's Reach to Teach & Success by Six

- Workshops
  - to educate parents about early childhood brain development
  - to develop computer literacy
  - to increase knowledge of community resources
  - to engage the community in efforts to improve early literacy and school readiness in rural, impoverished areas of Yuma County
- Partners
  - Reading is Freedom Literacy Campaign
  - Even Start Program
  - United Way of Yuma County
  - Yuma School District #1 Migrant Program

## Early Literacy Projects

- LSTA also funds statewide projects initiated by the Library Development Division of the Arizona State Library and offered to libraries for their participation.



## Tucson-Pima Public Library's Ready to Read

- Workshops for 43 in-home childcare providers
  - early brain development as it relates to early literacy
  - how to provide rich and stimulating language and pre-reading experiences for children
- For the last class session,
  - parents and children also attended.
  - children's librarians conducted special story times for the children.
  - free books were distributed.
  - highlights of the workshop were presented to parents, stressing the importance of reading and language for their children's brain development.
- Partnered with Child and Family Resources

## Arizona Reading Program



- The State Library provides public libraries and school libraries open during the summer materials to offer a summer reading program.
- Originally designed to keep school-age children reading during out-of-school time, the program now also encourages preschoolers to participate by having a parent, grandparent or sibling read to them.



## Early Literacy Planning

- Plan for an Early Childhood Education Model
  - Phoenix Public Library
  - Planning grant to help parents and caregivers in the Desert Horizon Elementary School community become their child's first teacher
  - Activities included
    - Coalition meetings
    - Learning Basket workshops
    - Family Fun Night
    - Presence at Meet the Teacher Night

## Family Place

- Family Place Libraries
  - feature appropriate collections for children and their caregivers
  - provide a welcoming space for families
  - offer workshops that feature professionals from community agencies who provide information informally while children and adults enjoy playtime.
- The AZ State Library partners with Libraries for the Future and Middle Country Libraries in this project.



(Photo: Center AZ Family Place libraries were funded primarily.)

## Family Place Sites



- Apache Junction Public Library
- Bisbee - Draper Queen Library
- Chandler Public Library
  - Main
  - Washa Branch
  - Hamilton Branch
  - Sunset Branch
- Coolidge Public Library
- Douglas Public Library
- Flagstaff City - Coconino County Public Library
  - Main
  - Tuba City
- Florence Community Library
- Heber - Rose Community Library
- Holbrook Public Library
- City of Mesa Library
- Peoria Public Library
  - Main
  - Sunrise Mountain Library
- Phoenix Public Library
  - Arcadia Branch
  - Burton Brin Campbell
  - Cholla Branch
  - Harmon Branch
  - Sagueno Branch
  - Yucca Branch
- Maricopa County Library District
  - George L. Campbell Branch
  - Saguaro - Northwest Regional
- Prescott Public Library
- Prescott Unified School District - Dester Family Resource Center
- Show Low Public Library
- Sierra Vista Public Library
- Tempe Public Library
  - Main
  - Esplanade Community Center
  - Westside Multi-Generational Center
  - Tucson
  - Columbus Branch

## Responsibilities of the State Library

- Provide
- Training for a project coordinator and a community partner for each site receiving a Building a New Generation of Readers grant
  - A PLA *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* kit for each site with training materials to use as a guide in preparing workshops
  - Funding to purchase materials to support the project, based on site-specific needs
  - Opportunities to network with colleagues
  - Consultations, site visits, and support from a Library Development Division Consultant

## Building a New Generation of Readers

Designed by the Arizona State Library, this statewide early literacy project supports public and school libraries in teaching parents and early childcare providers strategies to prepare preschool children from birth to become readers.



## Phoenix Public Library – A Model Site

- Served as a pilot site for *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library*
- Served as a leader in creating space in the library for parents, caregivers, and preschool children to spend time together in meaningful activities that promote reading readiness.



## Responsibilities of Libraries

- Assign a coordinator
- Complete the application
- Commit the coordinator to attending training on PLA's *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library* with a community partner
- Use the funding awarded to purchase supporting materials
- Promote and facilitate a minimum of three workshops for parents and/or early childcare providers prior to March 31, 2006
- Commit to short-term and long-term evaluations to be completed October 31, 2006

## Trainings Provided

- Highly qualified trainers
  - Saroj Ghoting - English
  - Francisco Vargas - Spanish
  - Elaine Meyers - Mentor
- Direct instruction, modeling, and guided practice
- Community partners included
- All libraries with early literacy grant projects invited
- Phoenix Public as a model to visit anytime

## Target Audiences for ECRR Library Workshops

- Parents and childcare providers who do not currently use the library
- Parents and childcare providers who do not read or who read very little to the children in their care
  - Teen parents
  - Low-income parents
  - In-home childcare providers

## Building a New Generation of Readers Sites

- Alice Woods/Sunizona Library
- Apache Junction Public Library
- Avondale Public Library
- Chandler Public Library
- Coolidge Public Library
- Flagstaff-Coconino County Public Library—Main, East, Tuba City
- Gila County Library District—Globe, Hayden, Isabelle Hunt, Miami, Payson, San Carlos, Tonto Basin, Young
- Glendale Public Library—Main, Foothills, Velma Teague
- Maricopa County Library District—Gila Bend, Guadalupe, Queen Creek
- Navajo County Library District—Cibecue, McNary, WhiteRiver
- Parker Public Library
- Patagonia School District Library
- Phoenix Public Library
- Rim Community Library
- Safford City—Graham County Library
- Scottsdale Public Library—Civic Center, Mustang
- Sedona Public Library
- Superior Public Library
- Tempe Public Library—Main, Escalante Center

## Desired Outcomes

- Parents and childcare providers trained by librarians will **increase their skills** and **change their behaviors** to implement the strategies taught in the workshops to prepare children from birth to become a new generation of readers.
- Parents and childcare providers trained by librarians will **obtain library cards** if they did not already have them and will **use their libraries** to help prepare children from birth to become a new generation of readers.

## Outputs

- Trainings
  - March 16, 2005 overview in Phoenix - 28
  - March 18, 2005 overview in Flagstaff - 11
  - May 12, 2005 in-depth training for 13 libraries - 30
  - September 14, 2005 in-depth training in Payson for 17 libraries - 31
  - September 15, 2005 in-depth trainings in Phoenix for 12 libraries - 22
  - May 17, 2006 reunion in Phoenix - 25 project coordinators
  - May 18, 2006 general training in Phoenix - 17
  - June 2006 introduction during Summer Library Institute - 26

## Measures of Success

- Libraries submit output data and session evaluation summaries upon completion of 3 workshops.
- Libraries choose one group to call after at least 3 months and ask about changes in their frequency of reading/talking to their children and use of the library since the workshop.

## Dialogic Reading Kit Project

### Dialogic reading

- Using questioning techniques during storybook reading with preschool children (preferably individually) to enhance their expressive language skills.
- Emphasized in the ECRR workshop for parents and caregivers of 2's & 3's



## Dialogic Reading Kits - continued

- The State Library provided dialogic reading materials and training to 20 library districts and large urban systems.
- Distribution was based on
  - children in poverty in each service area.
  - Spanish-speaking population statistics.
- Kits are designed to help parents/ caregivers use dialogic reading strategies.

## Responsibilities of Libraries

- Send a project coordinator to a training workshop
- Accept shipment of the materials, and arrange for distribution of the materials to libraries throughout the district.
- Work with the State Library to promote use of the materials in the library district, which may include hosting a districtwide workshop.
- Distribute, collect and return evaluation material.

## Contents of English Kits

- Pearson Read Together, Talk Together, Kit A for Ages 2-3\*
  - Program Guide
  - Parent Training Video
  - Teacher Training Video
  - Teacher/Parent Notes (2 copies per book)
  - 20 paperback books
- Read Together, Talk Together, Kit A for Ages 4-5\*
  - Program Guides
  - Parent Training Video
  - Teacher Training Video
  - Teacher Notes (1 copy per book)
  - Parent Notes (1 copy per book)
  - 20 paperback books



\*The kits were developed based on research by Groer, J. Williams, Ph.D., in collaboration with the National Center for Learning Disabilities.

## Responsibilities of the State Library

- Provide a training workshop for project coordinators, reimburse mileage and provide lunch
- Provide the dialogic reading materials, including shipping costs

## Contents of Spanish Kits

- Lectura de Dialogo (overview sheet for parents/caregivers)
- 20 Spanish titles
- Dialogic reading bookmarks for the 20 titles
- El Hablar y los Libros (video)
- Leale a su bebe (booklet)
- 2 copies each of 9 Scholastic Take Home Literacy Packs -- book, audiocassette (some), pattern master, activity card, 10x13 plastic handle bag

## Trainings Provided

- Training for coordinator from each site
  - Instruction and practice on dialogic reading
  - Small group discussions of
    - the content of the kits
    - the audience for the materials
    - how to package the materials (bags provided)
    - how to market them
- Local training on request
  - MCLD
  - Yavapai County
  - Navajo County

### Target Users of Kits

- Parents/caregivers attending Every Child Ready to Read workshops
- Family Place participants
- In-home daycare providers
- Teen parents

### Stumbling Blocks in Early Literacy Work

- Children's librarians' fear of teaching adults!
- Lack of comfort presenting the research material
- Time for staff training
- Time and staffing to hold workshops
- Staff to deliver workshops in Spanish
- Outreach to audiences other than storytime parents



### Desired Outcomes

- Participants from the library districts understand the importance of dialogic reading.
- Participants from the library districts develop strategies for distributing the materials and training other librarians in their district to use them.
- Parents and caregivers who use the materials talk with their children about the books they have read.
- Project coordinators learn more about how library resources and related programming make a difference in the lives of parents and caregivers.

### Building Blocks in Early Literacy Work

- Positive effect on storytime programs
- Commitment of libraries and librarians to Early Literacy
- Training model
  - Community partners
  - Bilingual training
  - Guided practice
  - Mentoring
- Response by libraries to Dialogic Reading kits
- Response by parents and caregivers to ECRR and Dialogic Reading Kits
  - Individual success stories
  - Effect on teen parents



### Measures of Success

- A written post-test to coordinators after training
  - 75% of attendees at training scored 100% on a multiple choice assessment of their learning on dialogic reading.
- A follow-up with each librarian after training to assure that a plan was in place
  - 31 of 33 people left training with a plan for using the kits and felt they could share their learning on dialogic reading.
- Evaluations from parents using kits
  - 48% of parents at Phoenix Public who completed an evaluation used ideas from the guide
  - 90% checked out another kit.
- Project summaries from coordinators

### Other Early Literacy Opportunities

- AZ Center for the Book
- Arizona Reads – NCLB Roundtable
- North Valley Regional Partnership
- PIRC Project

## What's next?

- Deciding how to best use LSTA and other resources to establish the Arizona State Library as a leader in the state in early literacy and local libraries as leaders in their communities
- Building capacity for early literacy leadership at existing Building a New Generation of Readers sites
  - more training requested!
  - more support for bilingual training
- Bringing on additional sites to continue Building a New Generation of Readers
  - Providing training at the Carnegie (10/24), Cochise County (10/26), and Tucson (10/27)
  - Examining other early literacy programs that could be "pre-approved" for use as resources
- Using Arizona State Library's Center for the Book and the Carnegie Center as an "umbrella" for literacy projects and programs