

Parent and Child Early Literacy

LSTA Grant

Project Summary

The *Parent and Child Early Literacy Program* has two components: (1) The implementation of the *Every Child Ready to Read Baby Reading Program* and (2) The enhancement of ongoing Parent Early Literacy Training Workshops with new equipment. *Parent and Child Early Literacy* participants and their parents will be using the six pre-reading skills which are recognized as necessary for children to become effective readers and learners.

Project Description

1. *Every Child Ready to Read Baby Reading Program*

- Baby Reading Program materials will be distributed at the Youth Desk in the Library and at the Escalante and North Tempe Multigenerational Centers beginning January, 2010. Parents will be asked to complete an evaluation form when they finish the game board. The Baby Reading Program will continue as long as supplies last. With no time requirement, staff expects to meet the 500 participant goal.
- A board book incentive will be purchased for parents completing the *Every Child Ready to Read Baby Reading Program*.
- New outreach Discover Storytimes will be held at the Escalante and North Tempe Multigenerational Centers for 16 weeks beginning February, 2010. Staff will teach or use the six pre-reading skills as they present the storytime and participants will be given the Baby Reading game board. Pre and post surveys will be given to measure the effectiveness of teaching the six pre-reading skills during 30 minute storytimes.
- A seed collection of 200 English and bilingual board books will be purchased and processed for circulation at the Escalante and North Tempe Multigenerational Centers.
- The Baby Reading Program will be promoted through the Tempe Opportunities Brochure which is mailed to every Tempe household. It will also be promoted through library and outreach storytimes and Parent Early Literacy Training Workshops. Posters and promotional information will be available in the library.

2. Enhancement of the Parent Early Literacy Training Workshops

- Staff will conduct two series of Parent Early Literacy Training Workshops beginning February, 2010, at the main library and at the Escalante and North Tempe Multigenerational Centers. The series of workshops include Early Literacy for Early Talkers: Birth to Two Year Olds, Early Literacy for Two to Three year Olds and Early Literacy for Four and Five Year Olds. Participants will be given Baby Reading Program game boards and will be encouraged to use the log with their infant and *Discover, Explore and Read* reading program for their older children. Pre and post surveys are normally given during the workshops. Staff will survey the participants to determine whether the PowerPoint presentation added to the participants overall understanding of the six pre-reading skills.
- Parent Early Literacy Training Workshops will be advertised in the Tempe Opportunities Brochure and offered to the Tempe community. Letters will be sent to Head Starts, preschools, daycares and schools in Tempe to encourage them to invite library staff into their organization to train staff and parents.
- Purchase laptop and projector for library and outreach Parent Early Training Workshops to enable staff to use the PowerPoint presentations available through the Association for Library Service to Children website.

4. Expansion of the board book and picture book collections.

- Picture books and board books to supplement the *Every Child Ready to Read Baby Reading Program* and the Parent Early Literacy Training workshops will be selected, purchased and added to the collection.
- A baseline picture book and board book circulation statistic will be taken in August, 2009, and will be tracked monthly until July, 2010, to determine the success of the *Parent and Child Early Literacy* program.

Justification

Need for programs and materials in Tempe's poorer neighborhoods

Many of Tempe's children are living below the poverty line. At over 14%, Tempe has the highest number of children living in poverty among the five most populous communities in the East Valley. Over 57% of Tempe Elementary School District students are participants in the free and reduced lunch program. Minority enrollment rates for the district have increased by over 85% since 1990 and over 125 languages are spoken in the Tempe schools. Many of these children come from families who, because of economic hardships or cultural differences, are not aware of Tempe Library resources and do not have books available for their children's use. This can be demonstrated by the fact that over 25% of the students within the Tempe Elementary School District are two years or more behind in English language learning and 11% are enrolled in special education programs. With this in mind, the *Discover, Explore and Read* in conjunction with its resources and programs will be available at the Escalante and North Tempe Multigenerational Centers, both of which serve a high-concentration of low income and/or minority families.

Parent Early Literacy Training

Tempe has an ongoing commitment to *Every Child Ready to Read* Parent Early Literacy Training Workshops. Previous grant funding has given us the materials and brochures we need to continue for many years. The lack of a laptop and projector has been frustrating to staff who feel the PowerPoint presentations would make workshops better organized, more professional, more time-efficient and more entertaining. Likewise, many parents would find it easier to remember key concepts.

Book budget has declined

During the last five years, the City of Tempe has endured lean economic times. The Tempe Public Library has experienced a dwindling budget as many valley libraries have. The costs of print materials, electronic databases and printing have had a major impact on the number of titles that are purchased. The Youth book budget has declined while library usage by charter schools, homeschooled children, preschools and daycares have increased. The youth science collection has a high circulation rate yet we are unable to afford the number of books that we need especially in the kindergarten through third grade reading levels. *Discover, Explore and Read* will supplement and enhance the existing youth book budget.

Mission statement

As stated in its mission statement, the Tempe Public Library places a special emphasis on supporting students on all academic levels and on stimulating children's interests and appreciation for reading and learning. *Discover, Explore and Read* adheres to our mission statement and addresses the needs of its young patrons through its materials, programs and services.

Outcome, Activities, Evaluations

A. Outcome:

Parents and caregivers will learn the six pre-reading skills critical to helping their child become a successful reader.

Activity:

Parents and caregivers will have the opportunity to attend informative hands-on early literacy training workshops, participate in the *Every Child Ready to Read* Baby Reading Program and library or new outreach Discover Storytimes. Parents will have the opportunity to check out board books which will give them the experience to apply the skills they've learned.

Evaluation

Pre and post surveys will be used and attendance reports compiled to evaluate the success of the Parent Early Literacy Training Workshops with the new equipment. Participation and program completion rate in the Baby Reading Program will be tracked as well as attendance in the outreach Discover Storytimes. Pre and post surveys will be given to measure the effectiveness of teaching the six pre-reading skills during 30 minute storytimes. Parents who complete the Baby Reading Program will fill out a written evaluation of the program. Circulation statistics of new board book collections and new library board books will be tracked.

Project Personnel

Sherry Warren, Youth Services Supervisor, Tempe Public Library, Project Director: Sherry will be responsible for the coordination of all operational aspects of the project. In this capacity, she will be responsible for preparing required reports, oversight of grant expenditures and coordination of program activities including interactions with partner agencies, development of evaluation instruments, collection development and program promotion. Sherry has been project manager for several grants within the last ten years.

Nicholas Escalante, Community Education Coordinator, Tempe Public Library, Learning Resource Center, Escalante Community Center: Nick will be responsible for outreach and program promotion to community members, with a focus of connecting with minority populations.

Sarah Kaufman, Youth Services Librarian, Tempe Public Library: Sarah has been an *Every Child Ready to Read* workshop presenter for the last three years and will continue in that role during this grant project. Her knowledge of Spanish has taken her into the schools and into the community to do outreach. She is a gifted storyteller.

Project Timeline

August 2009	Select and order picture books, board books and board book incentives
September	Send Baby Program Materials to be printed
October	Process board books for Centers for circulation
November	Send promotional information for <i>Parent and Child Early Literacy</i> to Tempe Opportunities Brochure
December	Promotion for Baby Reading Program begins
December	Plan outreach storytimes
January 2010	Baby Reading Program game boards are available at Library and Centers
January 2010	Mailing of promotional materials to Head Starts, PTOS, Preschool/Daycares, Public and Private Schools
February	First series of Parent Early Literacy Training Workshops begins
February	Outreach storytimes begin
May	Outreach storytimes end
June	Second series of Parent Early Literacy Training Workshops begins
June-July 2010	Data is collected and evaluated
August 2010	Final Report is written and submitted

Parent and Child Early Literacy LSTA Project Budget

Salaries	LSTA FUNDS	Local Funds	Total Funds
Project Manager and Instructor: Compensation rate of \$35 per hour, 7.65% FICA, 9.6% ASRS Project management duties, 180 hours Instruction and Preparation time, 50 hours		\$4,719.31	\$9,995.57
Outreach Coordinator and Instructor: Compensation rate of \$30 per hour, 7.65% FICA, 9.6%ASRS Outreach activities, 100 hours Instruction and preparation time, 50 hours		\$2,638.13	
Librarian Presenter: Compensation rate of \$30 per hour, 7.65% FICA, 9.6%ASRS Project management duties, 100 hours Instruction and Preparation time, 50 hours		\$2,638.13	
Contracted Services			\$1,300.00
Printing			
Baby Reading Program	\$1,300.00		
Equipment			\$2,300.00
Laptop	\$1,300.00		
Projector	\$1,000.00		
Library Collection Materials			\$9,000.00
Books 300@ \$22.00	\$6,600.00		
Board Books 300 @ \$8.00	\$2,400.00		
Supplies			\$325.00
Book Processing Materials	\$200.00		
Office Supplies		\$125.00	
Incentive for Reading Programs			\$4,000.00
Board Book Incentive			
500 @ \$8.00	\$4,000.00		
Total Funds	\$16,800.00	\$10,120.57	\$26,920.57