Early Literacy Skills

Getting ready to read, from birth to age 2

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Pikes Peak Library District, and CLEL Steering Committee
Goals for today

- Learn what has changed in the 2nd ed. of Every Child Ready to Read @ your library

- Be familiar with 5 practices to develop early literacy skills

- Have some fun
Why are we talking about early literacy?

A number of research studies...found that a significant percentage of children were entering kindergarten without the early literacy skills needed to learn to read.

*Every Child Ready to Read, 2nd Edition*
Early Literacy in the Library

- Children’s programming, traditional service
  - Early literacy focus
  - Modeling behavior
- ECRR 1, tips for parents and caregivers
  - During storytime
  - During reader’s advisory
- Advocacy
  - In the library
  - In the community at large
Every Child Ready to Read, 1st ed.

Print Motivation
Books are fun

Print Awareness*
Words are everywhere

Phonological Awareness*
Words are made of sounds

Letter Knowledge*
Look for letters

Vocabulary
Explore new words

Narrative Skills
Tell me a story
What’s new in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Edition

\begin{itemize}
\item Constrained skills
  \begin{itemize}
  \item Decoding language: letter knowledge, print awareness, phonological awareness
  \item Finite impact on reading
  \item Strong predictor of short term reading success
  \end{itemize}
\item Unconstrained skills
  \begin{itemize}
  \item Comprehension: vocabulary, background knowledge
  \item Ongoing impact on reading
  \item Strong predictor of long term reading success
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}
Early Literacy Practices

Talk to learn about oral language
Sing to hear the sounds in words
Read to nurture a love of reading
Write to understand print has meaning
Play to learn about the world so stories make sense
Babies

- Field of vision about 6”
- Strong contrast
- Black & white books
- Faces, especially babies
- Can learn how to use books
- Learn through imitation
- Sensory play (sounds, tickles)
- Random behavior becomes intentional

Repeated sounds
Wave bye-bye
Turn pages of book

A Piaget Primer: How a Child Thinks
Toddlers

- Imitate behavior
- Imitate animals or people
- Practice play
  (repeat actions to test results)
- Symbolic play by 18 months

A Piaget Primer: How a Child Thinks
ECRR Practices

- **Talk**  Narrate the day
- **Sing**   Songs and rhymes, rhythm of language
- **Read**  Together and make it enjoyable
- **Write** In the dirt, on paper
- **Play**  Imagine and explore
Let’s give it a try

Talk
Sing
Read
Write
Play

Image from Amazon.com
Core Messages of ECRR

- Early literacy skills begin at birth
- Parents are child’s first and best teachers
- 5 ECRR practices develop early literacy skills
- We all have a stake in developing early literacy skills in children
Resources and Recommended Reading

- ALSC & PLA. *Every child ready to read @ your library*, 1st ed. 2004. ALA: Chicago, IL.
- ALSC & PLA. *Every child ready to read @ your library*, 2nd ed. 2011. ALA: Chicago, IL.
Resources and Recommended Reading, Cont.