

Ready to Read at New York Libraries

OVERVIEW



What Is Ready to Read at New York Libraries?

Ready to Read at New York Libraries is a statewide initiative of the New York Education Department, coordinated by the New York State Library. Designed to improve and expand the availability of high quality public library early learning services in local communities across the State, this new statewide program will provide library staff, families and caregivers with the knowledge they need to prepare young children for their school years.

Improving early literacy services is a key component within *Creating the Future: A 2020 Vision and Plan for Library Service in New York State* and the State's federal Library Services and Technology Act five-year plan:

- Strengthen partnerships that enable public libraries to assist young families and child care providers in fostering early literacy skills for all children in New York State.
- Connect local libraries with statewide networks of childcare providers, non-profit organizations, public broadcasters and others to enhance early childhood services, including parent education.
- Provide library staff with ongoing access to research-based early literacy skills training.
- Partner with national, state, regional, and local organizations to increase family and caregiver participation in library based early literacy programs that foster a literacy-rich home environment.

From 2014 to 2016 a twelve-member Advisory Group advised the State Library on the overall initiative and assisted in developing collaborative partnerships to ensure that early literacy work is done effectively on a statewide, regional and local level. Beginning in 2017, a twelve-member Partnership Building Team was formed to continue the work of developing collaborative partnerships to strengthen early childhood services throughout New York State.

Ready to Read at New York Libraries: Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program will be a priority component of the initiative through 2019.

What is the Ready to Read at New York Libraries: Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program?

Careful planning and research, supported by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, has identified that the best single strategy to improve and expand the availability of public library early learning services in New York State is to establish a statewide program of regional, research-based early literacy skills training for library staff.

Following are the key elements of the *Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program*:

- Customized training designed for New York State public library staff by early literacy experts, with Five Foundation Training Components:
 - *Everyone Serves Families with Young Children;*
 - *Strengthening Young Families through Early Literacy Practices;*
 - *Early Literacy Community Asset Analysis;*
 - *Strategies for Successful Partnerships and Outreach to Families with Young Children; and*
 - *Early Learning Spaces.*
- Regional training sessions, freely available for New York State public library staff, delivered by a 30-member Training Cohort of expert trainers.
- Additional training opportunities in reading readiness, developing partnerships, STEM, and more will augment and enhance the information in the Foundation Training.