Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services, Public Libraries and the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant

Presented by
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Library Model established in 1999

- Parents are their child’s first & continuing teacher
- Libraries are powerful resources for families
- Libraries do their best work in collaboration with parents, agencies, partners, public officials
When the RTT ELC grant was written, we wrote these two library activities.

1. Create Library Cafés in Title One school districts. The grant refers to these as Library Family Councils. During a parent focus group, participants asked for a change in name, thus Library Cafes.

2. Create Family Information Centers which would include brochures from the ECAC partners.
Families, parents and children come together to the café
Warm inviting atmosphere with food
Through the relationships built by the Library Cafes, librarians have established or enhanced their relationship with each other and the customers.
Participants are asked questions which encourage discussion

- What do you like to play with your child?

- When you spend time with your children, what activities do you like to do together?

- Where do you find out about activities to do with your child?

- What do you wish you knew about parenting when you had your first child?
Family Information Centers were established in the public libraries where the Library Café was held.
• RTT ELC funds were used to send copies of *Every Child Ready to Read* @ your library for the Library Cafes.

• Simple examples of 5 practices: Talking, Reading, Singing, Playing and Writing.
AHAs or Librarians can learn too!

• Discovered library jargon and abbreviations we shouldn’t use
• Impact on some library policies; such as, fines, proof of address
• Suggestions: revise program hand-outs, increase library hours, family yoga program, family literacy class for Spanish speakers.
• More meaningful relationships with our community partners.
• SEFEL programs and materials
Social and Emotional Foundations in Early Learning (SEFEL) goes to the library

- Patience and Self Control... waiting our turn
- Libraries train child care professionals on early literacy & school readiness
- Play & learn areas in libraries
- Negotiation, Compromise, and Pretend Play
- Libraries train and mentor parents on early literacy & school readiness
- Play & learn areas in libraries
• Library response to SEFEL-Tender Topics uses over 500 books and shows how the books are used to bring out social issues
• American Library Association published this book.
More Library Resources

Storytimes
Come Learn with Me playgroups
Let’s Pretend programs
Play & Learn Centers
Books, e-books, audio books, music CDs
School readiness kits
Concept kits
Puppet shows
Early literacy workshops
Harvard Family Resource Center

Since 1983, we have helped stakeholders develop and evaluate strategies to promote the well-being of children, youth, families, and their communities.

Research Areas
- Complementary Learning: Linking families, schools, and communities to support success in school and in life.
- Family Involvement: Promoting strategies to support family involvement in children’s learning and development.
- Out-of-School Time: Supporting the accessibility, quality, and sustainability of out-of-school-time programs and initiatives.
- Early Childhood Education: Promoting innovative program development, family–provider relationships, community collaborations, & successful transitions.
- Evaluation: Helping organizations get the information they need to develop and execute effective strategies.
- Other Research Areas: Exploring new ideas and research areas.

New at HFRP
- Announcing HFRP Interact: Participate in our interactive web chats, web conferences, online conversations, and more. Engage thoughtfully, reflectively, and inspiring discussion.
- Resources Help Parents Explore Instructional Benefits of Digital Media: This #2 Parents and the Public blog in Education Week features some of HFRP’s newest resources.
- April FINE Newsletter: Making it Real—Connected Learning in the Digital Age: In the rapidly changing digital learning environment, institutions are partnering with families to support and inspire children’s digital media use.
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation Invests in Family Engagement: HFRP is one of 30 organizations awarded a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant to strengthen family engagement from birth through third grade.
- Revitalizing Family Engagement in the Transition Years: A new project will focus on increasing understanding and implementation of family engagement in the transition to school.

Key Resources
- The Evaluation Exchange
- FINE Network
- GST Database
- My Order

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