

St. Mary's County Library Early Childhood Services

Working with community agencies and the ECAC to build relationships with families to engage and empower them as their child's first teacher:

Support Family Well-Being

Promote Positive Parent Child Relationships

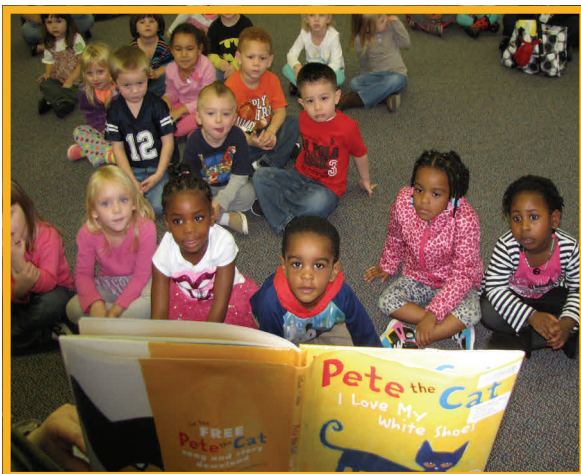
Support Parents as Lifelong Educators of their Children

Support Educational Aspirations of the Family

Connect Family to Peers & Community

A few of the Library services to support these family engagement goals include:

- Every Child Ready to Read @ your library training for childcare providers...FREE
- WoW! Mobile van to 55 childcare providers every month
- WoW activity bags focused on a theme: SEFEL topics, STEM topics (Executive Function skills coming soon!)
- Wiggle Giggle Storytimes, in partnership with our Infants and Toddlers professionals
- Tots and Tech: flyer, website, programs
- STEM programs for preschoolers: Pizza Counting & Measuring, Magnet Science, Color Mixing, LEGO
- Jim Gill: Music Play for All Young Children (www.jimgill.com) - program for families and one for childcare providers....FREE
- Active Learning Centers in each branch



- Learning Fun Activity Sheets handouts and on the website
- Spanish speakers: Spanish brochures, some storytimes and ECRR classes in Spanish, Spanish speaking staff in 2 of the 3 branches
- Classes on computers and software products
- TumbleBooks: online storytelling and music
- Library Family Cafes



St. Mary's County Early Childhood Advisory Council

By June 30, 2015, 85% of the children entering school in St. Mary's County, who participate in the Free and Reduced Meal program, will achieve a rating of full readiness on the State's Kindergarten Assessment, a 3% increase over current levels. The main strategy is to create a targeted communication plan to promote the importance of school readiness and the appropriate activities to help children start school ready to learn. Some of the activities include:

- Early Learning Backpacks: books and early learning activities to do in the home; 200 will be distributed to target populations
- Early Learning Parties and Parent Cafes
- *Summer Fun with Your Little One* distributed
- Parent Notes provide information and materials to parents through pediatrician and family practitioner offices, health department clinics, DSS
- Training conducted by Upside Down Organization to 50+ local professionals: *Beyond Poverty: Brain Inspired Ways to Understand and Respond to Poverty*
- Publicity campaign: hired a consultant to help us create a plan to promote the importance of school readiness to community leaders and the targeted families
- School Readiness Champions: recruited 6 community volunteers to serve as mentors within targeted neighborhoods to help families find programs, services and to provide ideas on activities they can use with their young children



- Southern Maryland Parents Website created and launched: smdparents.com
- Childcare Roundtables
- Planning a retreat on trust and accountability for late winter.
- St. Mary's Reads: volunteers reading to children in DSS waiting room
- Beginning discussion of the Early Childhood Family Engagement framework to identify practices by each ECAC member