

Today's Presenters



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Welcome!

Tools for Reimagining School Readiness

WebJunction Webinar
December 5, 2023



Photo: Bay Area Discovery Museum, used with permission

Position Paper



Toolkit Creation

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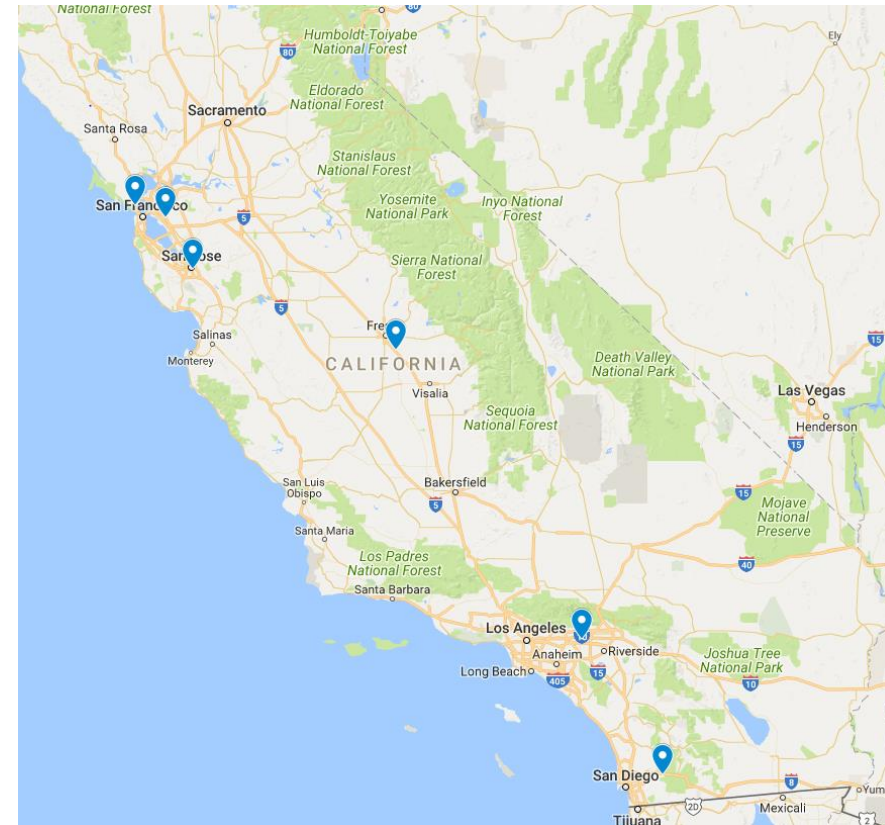


Bay Area
Discovery
Museum



California
STATE LIBRARY
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PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE. SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Created & Piloted
with 6 Libraries in CA



<https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/resources/publications>

Toolkit Goals

- Provide research-based strategies to support school readiness programming
- Enhance library's work with children (ages 0–8 yrs.) and their families
- Provide a variety of resources so libraries can pick and choose the ones that are right for their community

“I think to not be interested in school readiness is to be closing our eyes to what our community needs.”

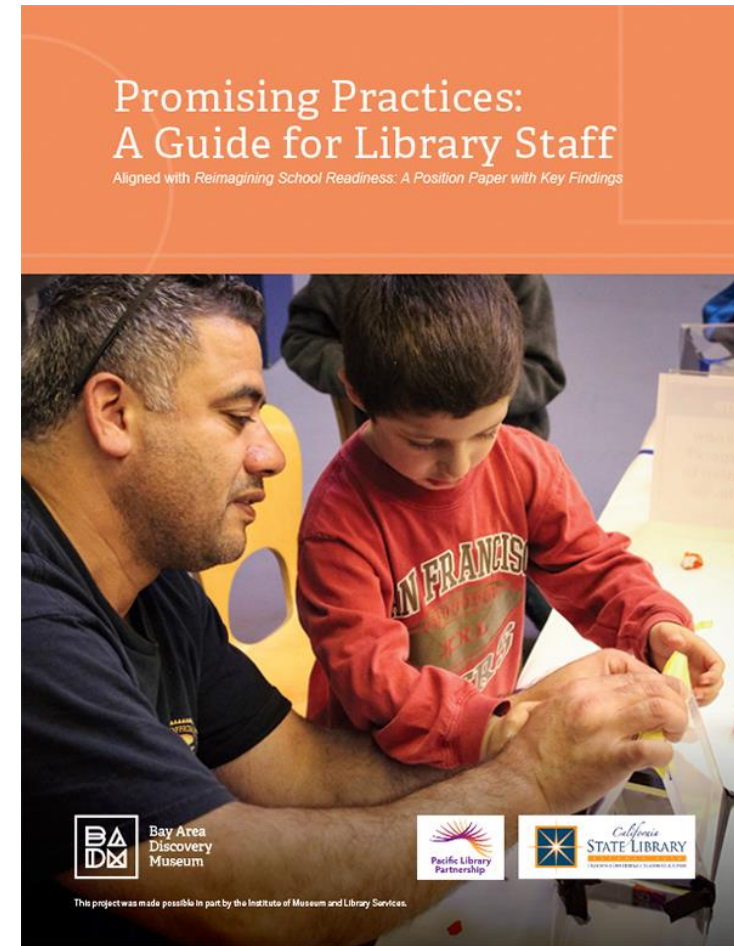


Toolkit Resources




Position Paper



Promising Practices Guide



Toolkit Aligned with 6 Key Findings

Skills	Key findings
 Talk & Play	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Quality adult-child interactions shape children's thinking skills. The conversations we have, the questions we ask, and the experiences we provide matter. Simple shifts in our approach and language boost children's learning and cognitive development.5. Children with stronger social skills do better in school, in the workplace, and in life. Child-directed play is key to the development of social skills and needs to be prioritized in early education.
 Science & Math	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Science learning is critical for the development of higher-order thinking but is missing from most early school experiences.3. Demonstrating strong math skills at an early age is a strong indicator of developing conceptual thinking skills and predicts long-term success in school, not just in later math learning but also in later reading proficiency.
 Body & Brain	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Planning, self-awareness, and self-control – what psychologists refer to as <i>executive functions</i> – predict positive school and life outcomes. Studies show that children develop executive functions through experience.6. Higher-order thinking, retention of information, and creativity flourish when children experience minimized stress and when their basic needs are met. While persistent stress can impede brain development, caring relationships with adults as well as programs that teach emotion regulation provide protection from risk.

Highlights

Family resources are available in 6 languages:

- English
- Spanish (US)
- Simplified Chinese
- Vietnamese
- Tagalog
- Farsi

Most resources are organized by age group:

- Babies (0-18 mos.)
- Toddlers (18 mos.-3 yrs.)
- Preschoolers (3-5 yrs.)
- Early Elementary (5-8 yrs.)



Resources to use or share with patrons

Social Media (96)

Bookmarks (24)

Time to Try Math Activities (25) (Cards & Signs)

Posters (Available in 3 sizes)



Social Media and Text Messages

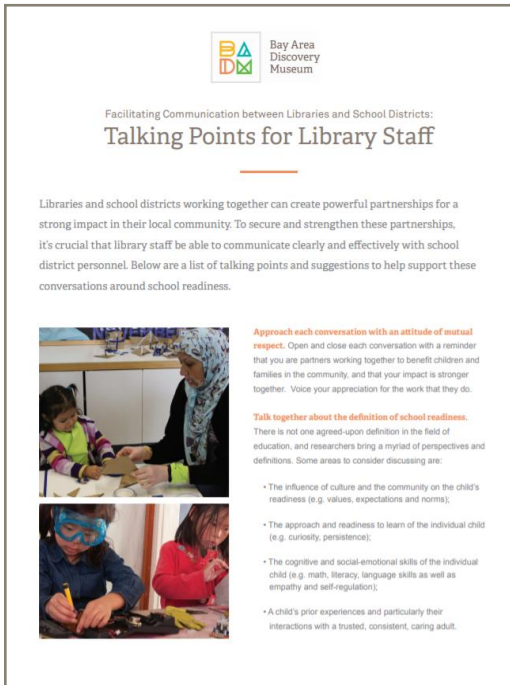
These resources (available in six languages) give practical tips for families and can be used on a variety of social media platforms, either with or without the associated images.

- Social Media Posts
- Social Media Pictures

Flyers (4)

Resources for Library Staff

Talking Points



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Facilitating Communication between Libraries and School Districts:
Talking Points for Library Staff

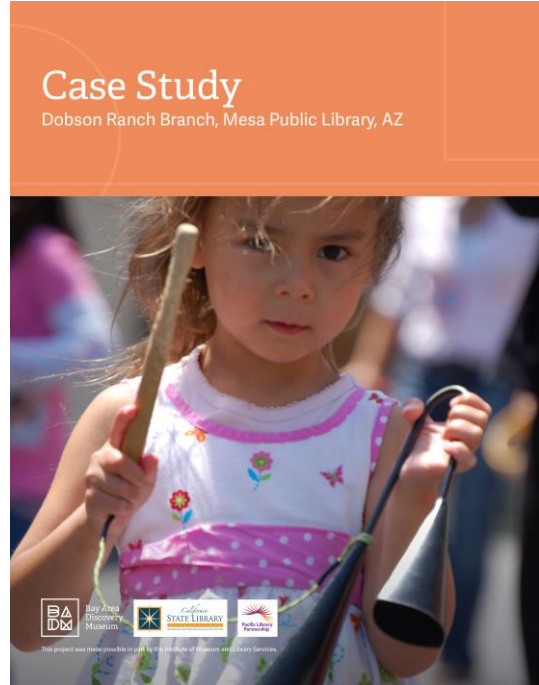
Libraries and school districts working together can create powerful partnerships for a strong impact in their local community. To secure and strengthen these partnerships, it's crucial that library staff be able to communicate clearly and effectively with school district personnel. Below are a list of talking points and suggestions to help support these conversations around school readiness.

Approach each conversation with an attitude of mutual respect. Open and close each conversation with a reminder that you are partners working together to benefit children and families in the community, and that your impact is stronger together. Voice your appreciation for the work that they do.

Talk together about the definition of school readiness. There is not one agreed-upon definition in the field of education, and researchers bring a myriad of perspectives and definitions. Some areas to consider discussing are:

- The influence of culture and the community on the child's readiness (e.g. values, expectations and norms);
- The approach and readiness to learn of the individual child (e.g. curiosity, persistence);
- The cognitive and social-emotional skills of the individual child (e.g. math, literacy, language skills as well as empathy and self-regulation);
- A child's prior experiences and particularly their interactions with a trusted, consistent, caring adult.

Case Studies (4)

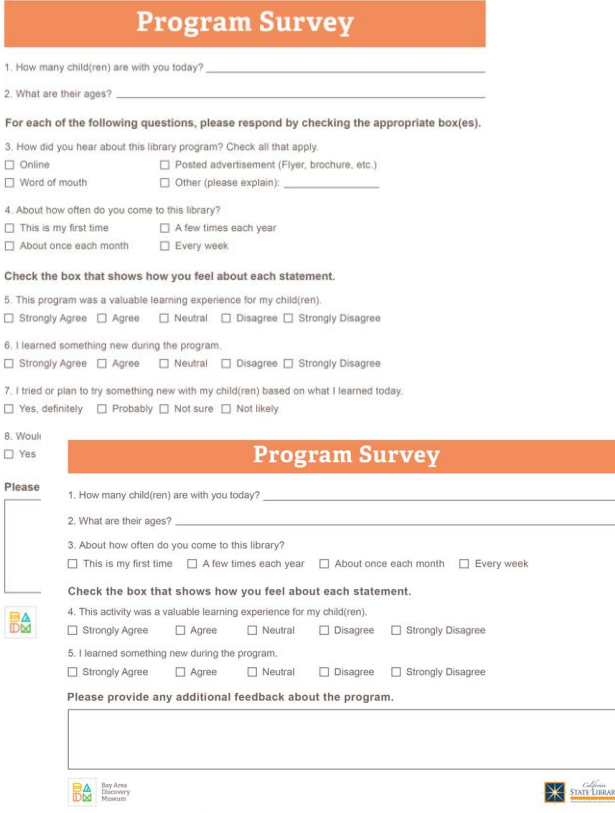


Case Study
Dobson Ranch Branch, Mesa Public Library, AZ

Bay Area Discovery Museum | **Arizona State Library** | **Pima County Public Library**

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Program Surveys (2)



Program Survey

- How many child(ren) are with you today? _____
- What are their ages? _____

For each of the following questions, please respond by checking the appropriate box(es).

- How did you hear about this library program? Check all that apply.
 - Online Posted advertisement (Flyer, brochure, etc.)
 - Word of mouth Other (please explain): _____
- About how often do you come to this library?
 - This is my first time A few times each year
 - About once each month Every week

Check the box that shows how you feel about each statement.

- This program was a valuable learning experience for my child(ren).
 - Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I learned something new during the program.
 - Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I tried or plan to try something new with my child(ren) based on what I learned today.
 - Yes, definitely Probably Not sure Not likely

8. Would _____

Yes

Please _____

Check the box that shows how you feel about each statement.

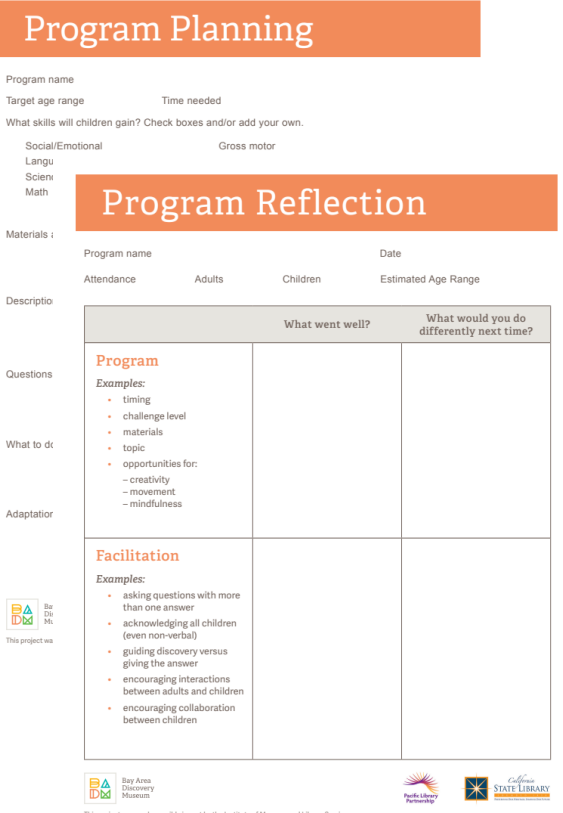
- This activity was a valuable learning experience for my child(ren).
 - Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I learned something new during the program.
 - Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please provide any additional feedback about the program.

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Program Planning and Reflection



Program Planning

Program name _____ Time needed _____
Target age range _____

What skills will children gain? Check boxes and/or add your own.

Social/Emotional Gross motor
 Language
 Science
 Math

Program Reflection

Materials: _____

Program name _____ Date _____
Attendance _____ Adults _____ Children _____ Estimated Age Range _____

Description: _____

Questions: _____

What to do: _____

Adaptator: _____

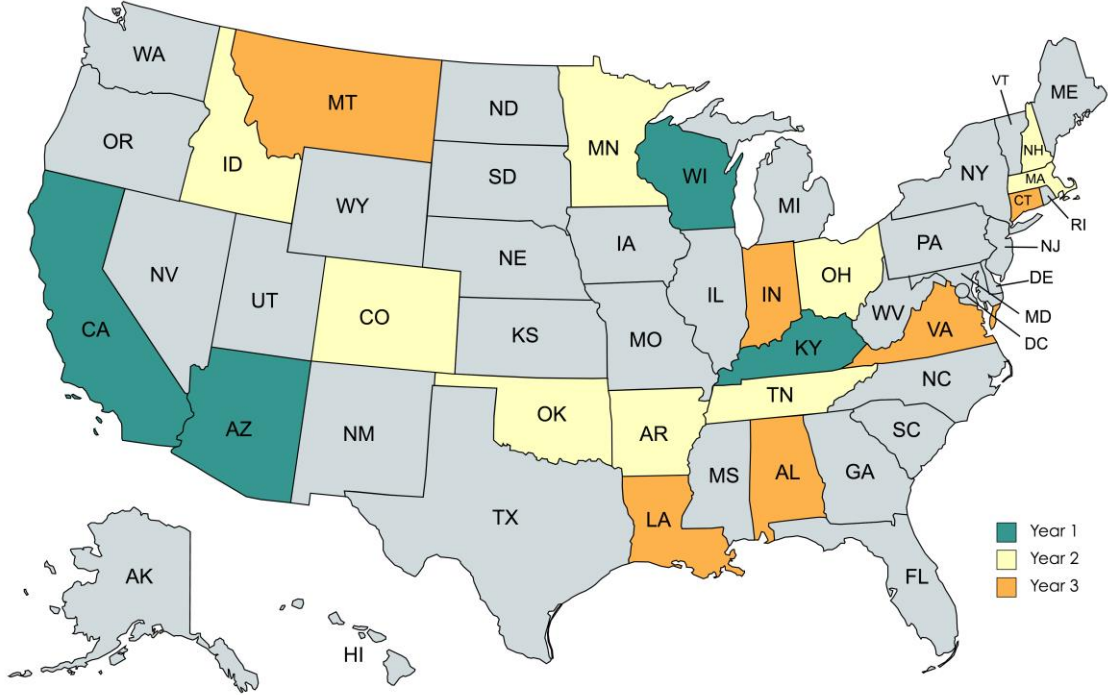
	What went well?	What would you do differently next time?
Program Examples: • timing • challenge level • materials • topic • opportunities for: -creativity -movement -mindfulness		
Facilitation Examples: • asking questions with more than one answer • acknowledging all children (even non-verbal) • guiding discovery versus giving the answer • encouraging interactions between adults and children • encouraging collaboration between children		

Bay Area Discovery Museum | **Arizona State Library**

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IMLS GRANT 2019-2022

Disseminated the Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit to 19 States!



Reimagining Tennessee

Kate Greene Smith

Youth Services & Special Projects Coordinator
TN State Library & Archives



Co-conspirators:

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Assistant Director
Ocoee River Regional Library



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Implementation in Tennessee



Photo courtesy of Jenny Gillihan, Obion River Regional Library Director

Major Successes



Photo courtesy of Jenny Gillihan, Obion River Regional Library Director

Librarian Feedback



Photo courtesy of Jenny Gillihan, Obion River Regional Library Director

Challenges



Photo courtesy of Jenny Gillihan, Obion River Regional Library Director

Using the Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit in Ohio



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Co-Trainers:

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Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County

Penelope Shumaker
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State Library of Ohio

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Storytime at the Library!

- Talk and Play
- Science and Math
- Body and Brain



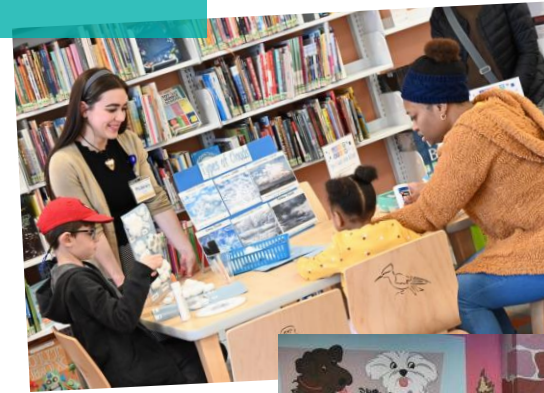
Programs at the Library!

- Play-based
- Hands-On Exploration
- Child Led
- Creativity
- Open-Ended
- Problem-Solving



Passive Activities at the Library!

- Caregiver/Child Engagement
- Tips for Caregivers
- Conversation Starters
- Play-based



Outreach with the Library!

- Growth mindset
- Open-Ended
- Reading
- Adult-Child Interactions
- Teamwork
- Play-based
- Critical Thinking



Workshops at the Library!

- Librarians and Library Staff
- Early Childhood Educators
- Elementary Educators



Photo Credits: State Library of Ohio, Stark Library

Questions?

Toolkit available for free:

<https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/library-toolkit>

Sign up to receive 12 monthly emails with tips on how to use the Toolkit in your library:

<https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.activehosted.com/f/54>

Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit

Welcome to the *Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit*! These research-backed resources were created for librarians to help families prepare children ages 0 to 8 for success in school and in life. This toolkit is completely downloadable and printable.

Getting Started

Watch our webinars for an overview of the different components of the toolkit and how to make the most of the resources provided.

[Watch Webinars](#)



Reimagining School Readiness Position Paper

Based on a comprehensive review of cognitive and developmental psychology, this position paper identifies the skills and conditions that matter most for a child's success in school and life. The position paper and accompanying research overview are a resource for librarians, educators, and families, among others, to create supportive learning experiences and environments.

[Full Position Paper](#)

[Research Overview](#)



Talk & Play



Body & Brain



Thank you!

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