Today's Presenters

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Welcome!

Tools for
Reimagining School Readiness

WebJunction Webinar
December 5, 2023

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Reimagining
School Readiness
A position paper with key findings

Bay Area
Discovery
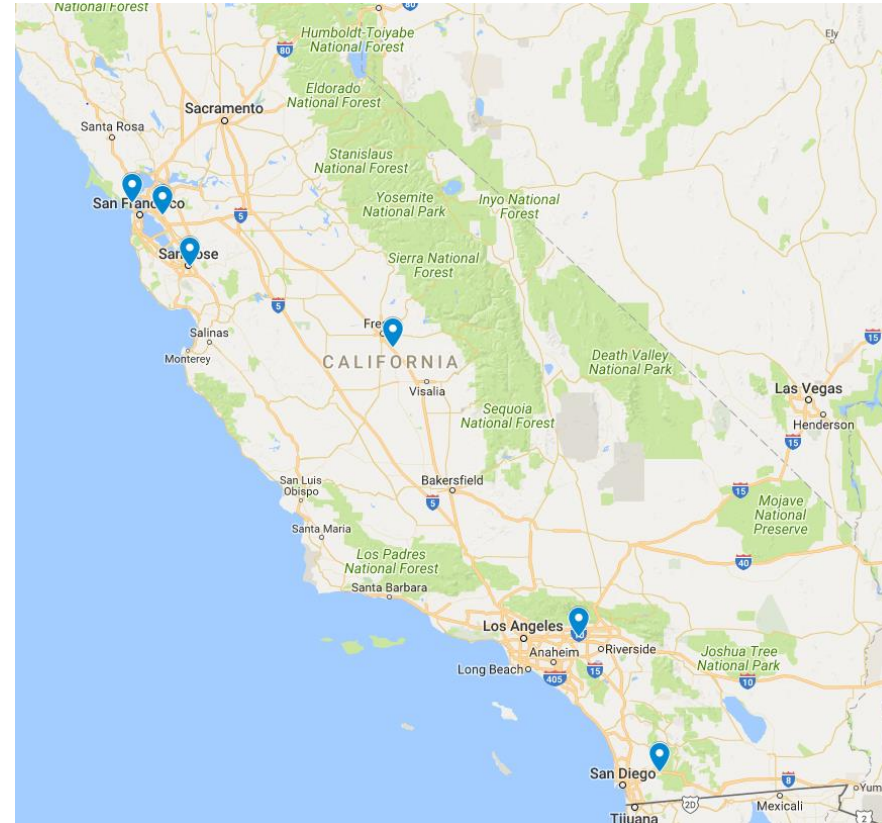Museum

Toolkit Creation

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PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE, SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Created & Piloted with 6 Libraries in CA

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."
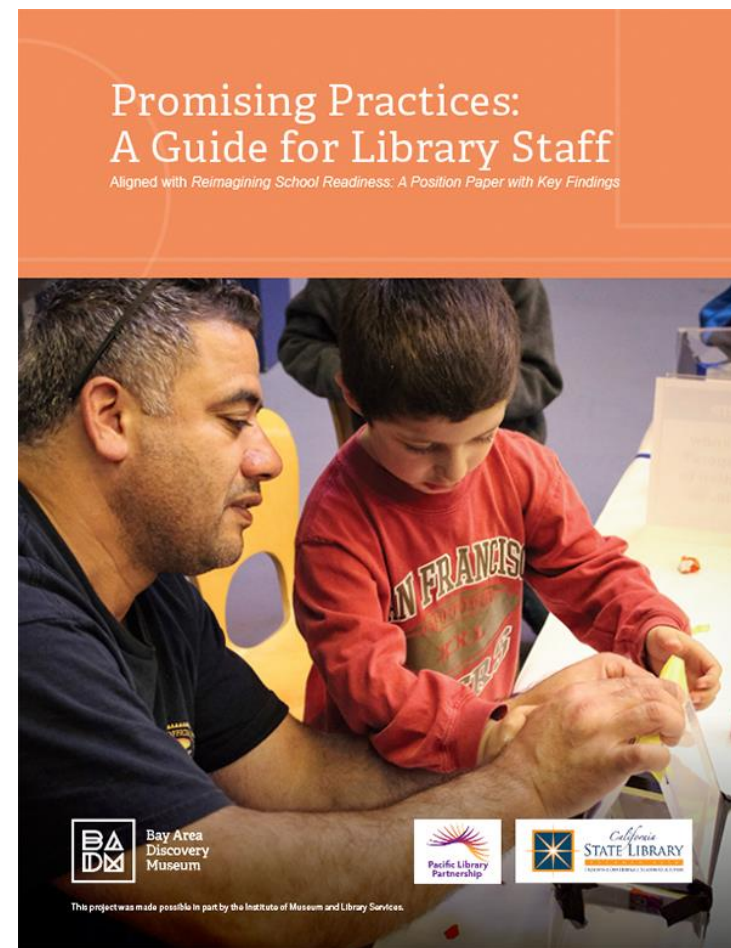
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Toolkit Resources

Position Paper

Promising Practices Guide

Toolkit Aligned with 6 Key Findings

Skills	Key findings
Talk & Play	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	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	4. Planning, self-awareness, and self-control – what psychologists refer to as *executive functions* – 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
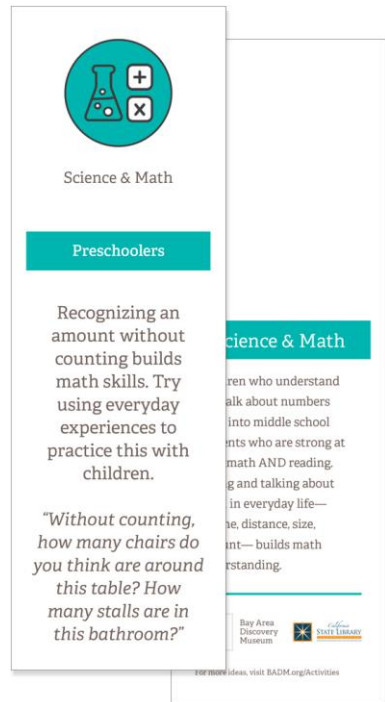- Vietnamese
- Tagalog
- Farsi

Most resources are organized by age group:

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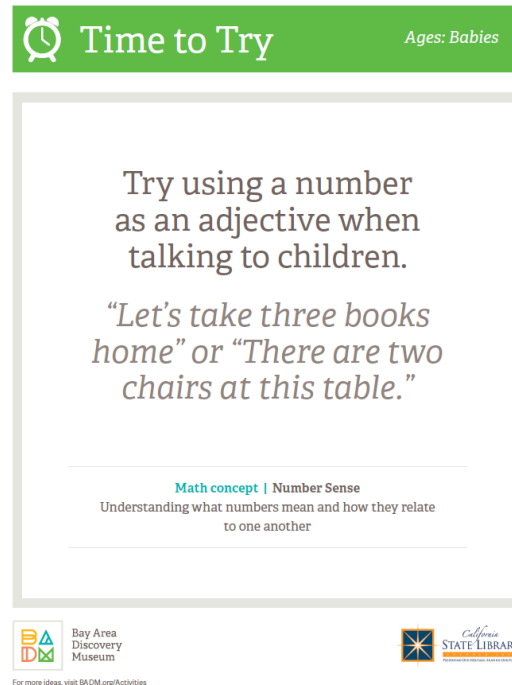- Preschoolers (3-5 yrs.)
- Early Elementary (5-8 yrs.)

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Resources to use or share with patrons

Social Media (96)

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

Bookmarks (24)

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

Posters
(Available in 3 sizes)

Science & Math

Preschoolers

Recognizing an amount without counting builds math skills. Try using everyday experiences to practice this with children.

"Without counting, how many chairs do you think are around this table? How many stalls are in this bathroom?"

⏰ **Time to Try**

Ages: Babies

Try using a number as an adjective when talking to children.

"Let's take three books home" or "There are two chairs at this table."

Math concept | Number Sense
Understanding what numbers mean and how they relate to one another

For more ideas, visit BADM.org/Activities

CONVERSATION STARTERS — while **READING** together

"Why do you think the character did that?"
Encourages children to explain their ideas.

"How would you feel if you were in that situation?"
Helps build empathy.

"What do you think will happen next?"
Prompts children to make predictions.

Flyers (4)

School Readiness Tips — Babies — Toddlers — Preschoolers — Early Elementary

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Resources for Library Staff

Talking Points

Case Studies (4)

Program Surveys (2)

Program Planning and Reflection

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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 Study
Dobson Ranch Branch, Mesa Public Library, AZ

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Program Survey

1. How many child(ren) are with you today? _____
2. What are their ages? _____

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

3. How did you hear about this library program? Check all that apply.
☐ Online   ☐ Posted advertisement (Flyer, brochure, etc.)
☐ Word of mouth   ☐ Other (please explain): _____

4. 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.

5. This program was a valuable learning experience for my child(ren).
☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

6. I learned something new during the program.
☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

7. 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

Program Survey

1. How many child(ren) are with you today? _____
2. What are their ages? _____
3. 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.

4. This activity was a valuable learning experience for my child(ren).
☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Agree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Strongly Disagree

5. 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

Program name
Target age range   Time needed
What skills will children gain? Check boxes and/or add your own.
Social/Emotional   Gross motor
Langu
Scien
Math

Materials

Descriptio

Questions

What to do

Adaptation

Program Reflection

Program name   Date
Attendance   Adults   Children   Estimated Age Range

	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		

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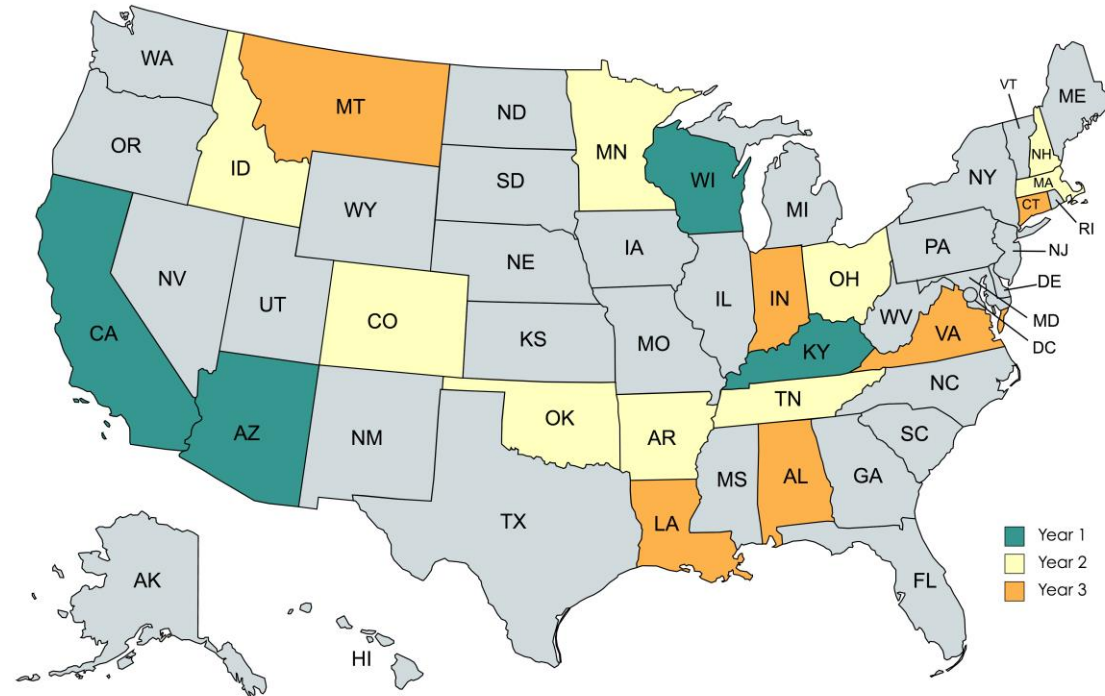
Reimagining Tennessee

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Implementation in Tennessee

Photo courtesy of Jenny Gillihan, Obion River Regional Library Director

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Major Successes

Photo courtesy of Jenny Gillihan, Obion River Regional Library Director

Librarian Feedback

Photo courtesy of Jenny Gillihan, Obion River Regional Library Director

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Challenges

Photo courtesy of Jenny Gillihan, Obion River Regional Library Director

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Using the Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit in Ohio

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Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County

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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

Photo Credits: The Lane Libraries, The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Stark Library

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Passive Activities at the Library!

- Caregiver/Child Engagement

- Tips for Caregivers

- Conversation Starters

- Play-based

Photo Credits: The Lane Libraries, The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County

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Outreach with the Library!

- Growth mindset

- Open-Ended

- Reading

- Adult-Child Interactions

- Teamwork

- Play-based

- Critical Thinking

Photo Credits: Stark Library

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Workshops at the Library!

- Librarians and Library Staff

- Early Childhood Educators
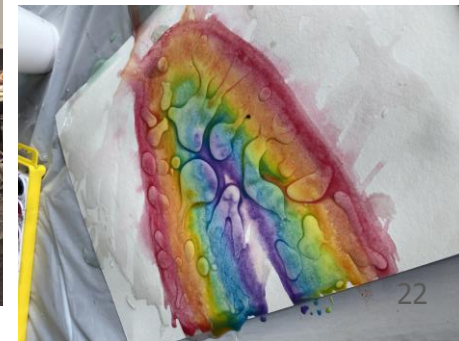
- Elementary Educators

Photo Credits: State Library of Ohio, Stark Library

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Questions?

Toolkit available for free:

https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/school-community/resources/school-readiness-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

Home / Resources / Educator Resources / Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit

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

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Thank you!

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