Today's Presenters

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Welcome!

Tools for Reimagining School Readiness

WebJunction Webinar
December 5, 2023
Reimagining School Readiness
A position paper with key findings
Toolkit Creation

Brought to you by...

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

Reimagining School Readiness
A position paper with key findings

Promising Practices Guide

Promising Practices: A Guide for Library Staff
Aligned with Reimagining School Readiness: A Position Paper with Key Findings
## Toolkit Aligned with 6 Key Findings

<table>
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<th>Skills</th>
<th>Key findings</th>
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| 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.  
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.  
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.  
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. |
| Science & Math          |                                                                                                                                               |
| Body & Brain            |                                                                                                                                               |
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

**Bookmarks (24)**

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

**Posters**
*(Available in 3 sizes)*

**Social Media (96)**

- **Social Media and Text Messages**
  - These resources (available in various 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**

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**Time to Try**
*Age: 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."

**Conversation Starters**

**Why do you think**

Encourages children to explain their ideas.

**How would you feel**

Helps develop empathy.

"What do you think will happen next?"

Encourages children to make predictions.

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**Flyers (4)**

- **School Readiness Tips**
- **Preschoolers**
- **Early Elementary**
- **Toddlers**
- **Babies**
Talking Points

Case Studies (4)

Program Surveys (2)

Program Planning and Reflection
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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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
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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Photo Credits: The Lane Libraries, The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Stark Library
Storytime at the Library!

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

Photo Credits: The Lane Libraries, The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County
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
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
Outreach with the Library!

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

Photo Credits: Stark Library
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
Thank you!

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