

1. Ready to Read at New York Libraries: OVERVIEW

What Is Ready to Read at New York Libraries?

Ready to Read at New York Libraries is a statewide initiative of the New York State Education Department designed to improve and expand the availability of high quality public library early learning services in local communities across the state. This will provide families and caregivers with the knowledge they need to prepare young children for their school years.

Improving early literacy services is a key component within *Creating the Future: A 2020 Vision and Plan for Library Service in New York State* and the State's federal Library Services and Technology Act five-year plan.

- Strengthen partnerships that enable public libraries to assist young families and child care providers in fostering early literacy skills for all children in New York State.
- Connect local libraries with statewide networks of childcare providers, non-profit organizations, public broadcasters, and others to enhance early childhood services, including parent education.
- Provide library staff with ongoing access to research-based early literacy skills training.
- Partner with national, state, regional, and local organizations to increase family and caregiver participation in library based early literacy programs that foster a literacy-rich home environment.

A twelve-member Advisory Group advises the State Library on the overall initiative and assists in developing collaborative partnerships to ensure that early literacy work is done effectively on a statewide, regional, and local level.

Ready to Read at New York Libraries: Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program will be a priority component of the initiative through 2019.

What is Ready to Read at New York Libraries: Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program?

Careful planning and research, supported by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, has identified that the best single strategy to improve and expand the availability of public library early learning services in New York State is to establish a statewide program of regional, research-based early literacy skills training for library staff.

Following are the key elements of the *Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program*:

- Customized training designed for New York State public library staff by early literacy experts, with Five Foundation Training Components:
 - *Early Literacy Community Asset Analysis;*
 - *Strategies for Successful Partnerships and Outreach to Families with Young Children;*
 - *Strengthening Young Families through Early Literacy Practices;*
 - *Early Learning Spaces; and*
 - *Everyone Serves Families with Young Children.*
- Regional training sessions, freely available for New York State public library staff, delivered by a 30-member Training Cohort of expert trainers.
- Additional training opportunities in reading readiness, developing partnerships, STEM, and more will augment and enhance the information in the Foundation Training.

2. Ready to Read at New York Libraries: GOALS



What is the Overarching Goal of Ready to Read at New York Libraries Program?

New York's public libraries will significantly improve the quality of early learning services, providing families and caregivers with the knowledge they need to prepare young children for their school years.

What is the Goal of Ready to Read At New York Libraries: Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program?

New York's public libraries will significantly improve the quality of early learning services by increasing library staff capacity to develop and deliver quality early learning services for families and caregivers.

What are the Goals of the Advisory Group and the Training Cohort?

The twelve-member *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* Advisory Group and the thirty-member Training Cohort are working with the State Library to develop, deliver and evaluate the Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program.

The Advisory Group will:

- Provide expert advice to the State Library concerning the overall statewide early literacy program *Ready to Read at New York Libraries*; and
- Assist in developing and supporting collaborative partnerships to ensure that early literacy work is done effectively on a statewide, regional, and local level.

The Training Cohort will:

- Provide consistent, effective training that prepares public library staff to identify needs and partnerships, and provide high quality services to meet the early literacy needs of young children and their parents and caregivers; and
- Support implementation of the Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program statewide through ongoing learning, collaboration and sharing.

For more information about *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* visit the official website,

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/earlylit/index.html> or contact the Program Director, Karen Balsen at karen.balsen@nysed.gov or 518-486-2194.