Librarians and DAP Early Childhood Programs
Powerful Strategies for Growing Young Readers

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Introduction

• Department Chair and Associate Professor in Library and Information Science
• Started out as an elementary school librarian in Texas
• Taught at Kent State U. then DU
• We launched first Early Childhood Librarianship program in the U.S.
• Colorado is fabulous state for early literacy work
Overview of Content

1. Librarians, their skills, and their work.
2. Creating a classroom materials collection management plan.
3. Examples of early literacy efforts in libraries.
4. Partnering with libraries.
What is a library?
The Librarian’s Principles

1. Provide and encourage access to information for lifelong learning and enjoyment.
2. Know the needs of the community and individuals and be responsive to those needs.
The Librarian’s Principles

3. Be a good steward of public funds by collecting high quality materials and providing engaging experiences.

4. Organized information about the collection is essential for easy access.
The Context

POLL QUESTION 1!
Not Just About Books!

- Games
- Activities
- Apps
- Software
- Toys
- Space
- Furnishings
AND...

• What am I supposed to do with these things when I have them?
Over 50% of early childhood educators who attended the PDI said that they did not have a plan for acquiring children’s books or literacy related resources.
This is Who We (Librarians) Are!

- How do librarians develop and maintain a collection?

They have a plan!
A Plan?

• Commonly called “Collection Development Plan” or Policy
  o Example: http://cityofpasadena.net/library/about_the_library/collection_development_policy/

• A guiding as well as operational document
Essential Ingredients

• Guiding statements of organization
• Knowledge of environment of materials
• Knowledge of community
• Mindset of considering the future, the present, and the past
How do Librarians Select Materials?

- Assessing the environment CONSTANTLY.
- Using criteria that are appropriate to the library’s
  - Goals
  - Community
  - Individuals
  - Budget
  - Practices
Identify the uses that are important to your school

- Assessment
- Early literacy
- STEM
- Teacher materials
- Student materials
- Home-school materials
- Professional development materials
- Etc.
Roskos, Lenhert, and Noll Framework

- Define curricular domains.
- Define criteria for evaluating guidance to teachers for use of content.

For example:
- Oral language guidance
  - Clear procedures for shared reading before, during, and after reading
Roskos, Lenhert, and Noll Framework

Other possible domains

- Vocabulary
- Phonological awareness
- Alphabet letter knowledge
- Print knowledge
Knowing What Guides Your Organization

For example
- Learning outcomes
- Using budget wisely
- Serving a particular population
Knowing Your Community

For example

- Children’s cognitive and physical abilities
- Characteristics of caregivers
- Demographics of service area
- Staff characteristics
Knowing What You Already Have

• Difference between a list and a catalog.
• Why we should know what we already have.
Knowing What You Already Have: How to Begin

- Considerations
  - Who is responsible
  - When will it be done
  - Types of items to include
  - Features of the items to record
  - Sustainability and evaluation
How Do Librarians Do It?

- Depends upon size of library
- Generally, someone or team with expertise in cataloging according to standards in the library industry
- May hire an external firm to do some or all
When to Do It

• Depends upon the Who
• Slow times (I know, I know…)
• Yearly audit
• In phases
Description of Items

• Based upon (for example)
  o The traditional: author, title, subject
  o Format
  o Connections to other items
  o Uses
  o Importance
  o Source
  o Age of publication
  o Condition
Weeding

• Physical condition

• Content
  o “There are 48 states in the United States.”
  o Problematic or offensive
• Finding information
  o Large body of research indicates that, no matter the situation, people ask those they trust, whether the one they trust is knowledgeable of the topic or not.
How Do Librarians Find New Materials?

- Professional resources
- Publishers and distributors
- Conferences
- Blogs
- Mass media
- Patrons of library; children and families
Professional Resources

• Announcements and Reviews
  o Publishers’ Weekly
  o Booklist
  o Choice (for older readers and students)
  o Kirkus Reviews

• Award Winners
  o Caldecott
  o Children’s Book Council
  o State and national groups
How Do Librarians Evaluate Materials?

• See “Collection Development Plan”
  o Established criteria for evaluating materials
Evaluating Materials for Your Needs

- Consider
  - Languages
  - Skill levels
  - Curriculum
  - Uses
  - Quality
POLL Question 2!
Evaluating Materials for Your Needs

• Identify criteria for quality
  o Illustrations
    • Appropriateness for audience and topic
    • Engaging
    • Connection to text or storyline
    • Familiarity
    • Accuracy
    • Complexity
    • Appeal
But Max could not relax.
Evaluating Materials

- **Identify criteria for quality**
  - Flow of storyline
  - Relevancy to population and intended use
  - Use of clear, natural language
  - Likely to keep child’s attention
Evaluating Materials

- Identify criteria for quality, cont’d.
  - Support development of early literacy skills
  - Sturdiness
  - Interactive
  - Easy to manipulate
  - Offer possibilities for related activities
POLL QUESTION 3!
How libraries throughout the country support early literacy and early childhood education.

- **Professional associations**
  - American Library Association and Divisions
    - Association of Library Services to Children
    - Public Libraries Association
    - American Association of School Libraries
How libraries throughout the country support early literacy and early childhood education.

• Tools and frameworks
  o Every Child Ready to Read  [http://everychildreadytoread.org/](http://everychildreadytoread.org/)
  o Emphasis is on helping parents and caregivers support development of early literacy skills
    • Talking
    • Writing
    • Reading
    • Playing
    • Singing
How libraries throughout the country support early literacy and early childhood education.

- **Family Place Libraries**
  - [http://www.familyplacelibraries.org](http://www.familyplacelibraries.org)

- **Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy**
  - [www.clel.org](http://www.clel.org)
  - [www.storyblocks.org](http://www.storyblocks.org)
http://www.storyblocks.org/

ALL VIDEOS

Debajo de un botón
Songs, Spanish, Babies, Toddlers

Pin Pon
Songs, Spanish, Preschoolers, Toddlers

Mother and Father
Rhymes, English, Babies, Toddlers

Wake Up Toes
Songs, English, Babies

Play

Play

Play

Play
How to take advantage of the efforts of libraries and the unique contributions of libraries to early literacy.

• Ask for help with
  o Staff training
  o Caregiver training
  o Evaluating your collection
  o Visiting story-times
  o Technology
How to take advantage of the efforts of libraries and the unique contributions of libraries to early literacy.

- Ask the library to provide a community analysis
- Ask about dedicated use of part of the collection
- Ask for help with bulletin boards and displays related to books and early literacy
• Cosponsor a speaker, author, or event
• Attend staff training sessions together
• Advocate together
• Write a grant proposal together:  www.imls.gov
Contact Information

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