EVERY CHILD READY TO READ

- Parent education initiative of the American Library Association
- Launched in 2000
- Curriculum materials used for training staff, parents, and caregivers since 2004
- Research incorporated into storytimes

AGENDA:

- Introductions
- What are "executive function" or "soft" skills?
- Why are these skills important?
- How do we help children develop these skills?
- Questions? Suggestions?
WHAT ARE EXECUTIVE FUNCTION OR "SOFT" SKILLS?

“Executive function and self-regulation skills are the mental processes that enable us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and juggle multiple tasks successfully.”

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/executive-function/
LIFE TODAY IS...

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION THE BOSS

“Hard” skills: measurable, specific. WHAT you know

“Soft” skills: harder to quantify. How we get along with others and use information

WHAT ARE THE SKILLS?

• Self-regulation
• Mental flexibility
• Working memory

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/executive-function/
SEVEN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

• Focus and self-control
• Perspective-taking
• Communicating
• Making connections
• Critical thinking
• Taking on challenges
• Self-directed, engaged learning

WHY IS DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS IMPORTANT?

“In a Google generation, where there are facts at your fingertips, the person who will later be called boss will be the person who can put those facts together in new and innovative and creative ways.”

--Kathy Hirsh Pasek

WHY IS DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS IMPORTANT?

SELF-REGULATION
• Taking turns
• Movement activities
• Keeping hands to yourself
• Answering questions
• Sitting
• Paying careful attention
• “I Spy” games

SELF REGULATION BOOK SUGGESTIONS

SELF REGULATION BOOK SUGGESTIONS
**SELF REGULATION**

**CONTROL YOUR BODY**

**I LOVE CAKE**

**IS EVERYONE READY FOR FUN?**

**SELF MONITOR**

**SELF REGULATION**

**LION'S LUNCH?**

**WAIT YOUR TURN**

**CONTROL EMOTIONS**

**LLAMA LLAMA TIME TO SHARE**

**MENTAL FLEXIBILITY**

- DIVERSE BOOKS
- Trying on roles/pretend
- Answering questions
- Sorting/matching games
- Listening without judgement/making mistakes
- Non-fiction/background knowledge
MENTAL FLEXIBILITY

LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET

TEXT TO WORLD/SELF
THINK CRITICALLY

TEXT TO SELF
PROBLEM SOLVE

HUNGRY BIRD

WORKING MEMORY

• Asking recall questions
• Flannelboard memory games
• Explaining something/sequencing
• Making connections/activating prior knowledge
• Cumulative songs/games
• Following directions
• Repeating refrains in books

“What happened when...”

WORKING MEMORY BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Oh No!

Hooray for Hat!

No More School!

No Sleep for Sheep!
WORKING MEMORY BOOK SUGGESTIONS

WORKING MEMORY
- Retain in the Memory What You Read Earlier
- Communicate Feelings
- Empathy
- Repetition
- Retain What You Read Earlier
- Share Information
- Remember What You Saw Earlier
- No Sleep for the Sheep
- I Want My Hat Back

Oh No!
Hooray for Hat
GROWTH MINDSET

"In a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits....In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment."

--Carol Dweck

HAVE FUN!