



Pre-Start Activity: Burning Questions

What question do you want answered by the end of this training?

Please write it on a post-it note and put it on the “Burning Questions” sheet on the wall.



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

Amanda Schiavulli, trainer

Everyone Serves Families with Young Children



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services



Activity!

Danger Signs



autodidact

autodidact

au·to·di·dact

autodidact:

a self-taught
person



FINGER LAKES LIBRARY SYSTEM

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Early Literacy and Storytime Resources

[|Collection Development|Demographic Data|Early Literacy Organizations|Forms|Funding|Storytime Resources|Vendors|](#)

Ready to Read at New York Libraries

As part of the 2016-2019 Family Literacy Grant, the Finger Lakes Library System is participating in the New York State Education Department's *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* initiative.

This page is intended for member libraries in the Finger Lakes Library System to download resources after training and download related documents. Any questions, please email the [Training Cohort](#).

- [Official Website](#)
- [Overview of the Program](#)



Family Engagement



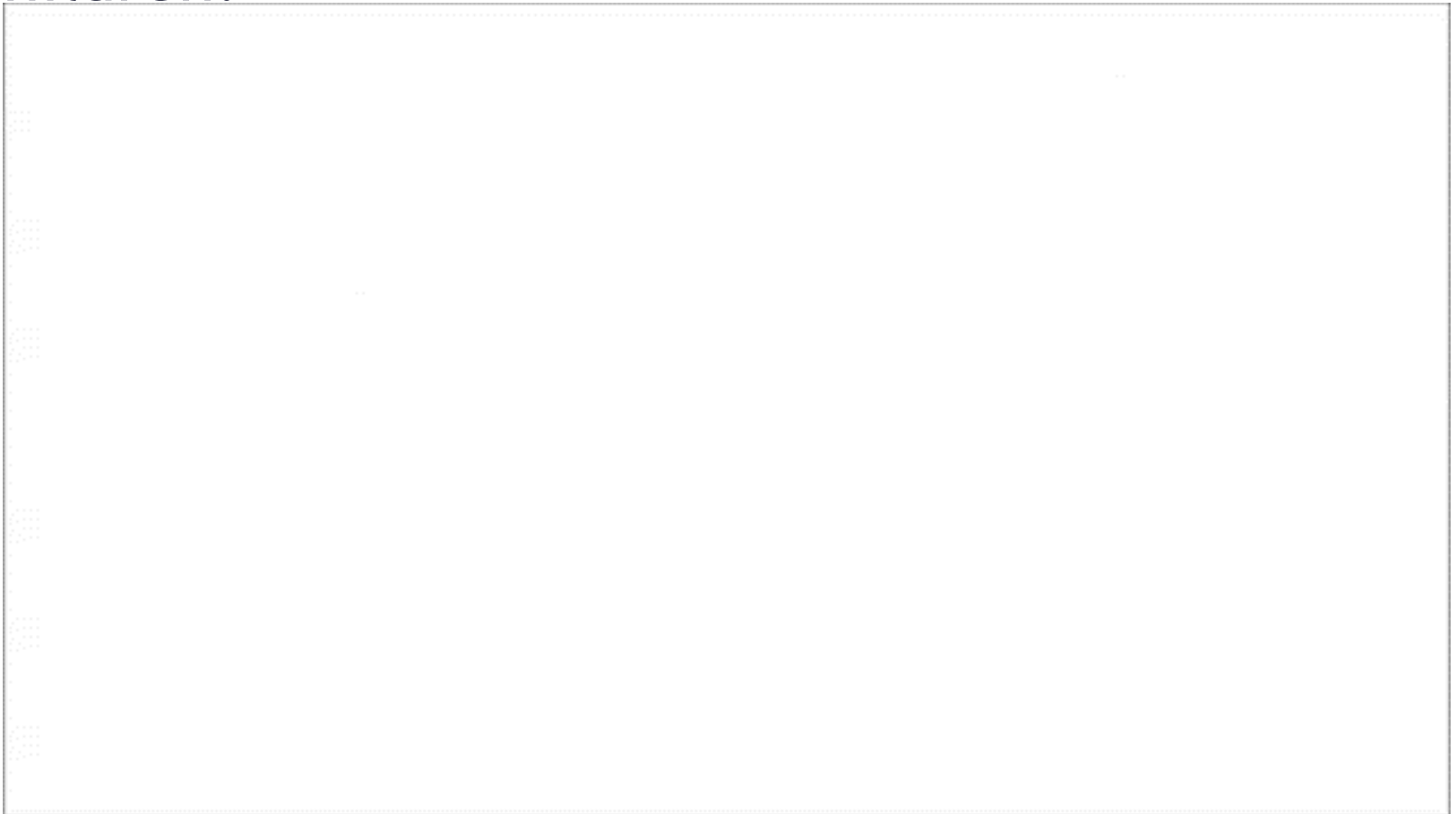
Family Engagement:

How families support
children's learning anywhere
children learn.

Children and youth learn in countless ways, anywhere, anytime. And one of the most powerful levers of children's learning—from the early childhood years through adolescence—is families.

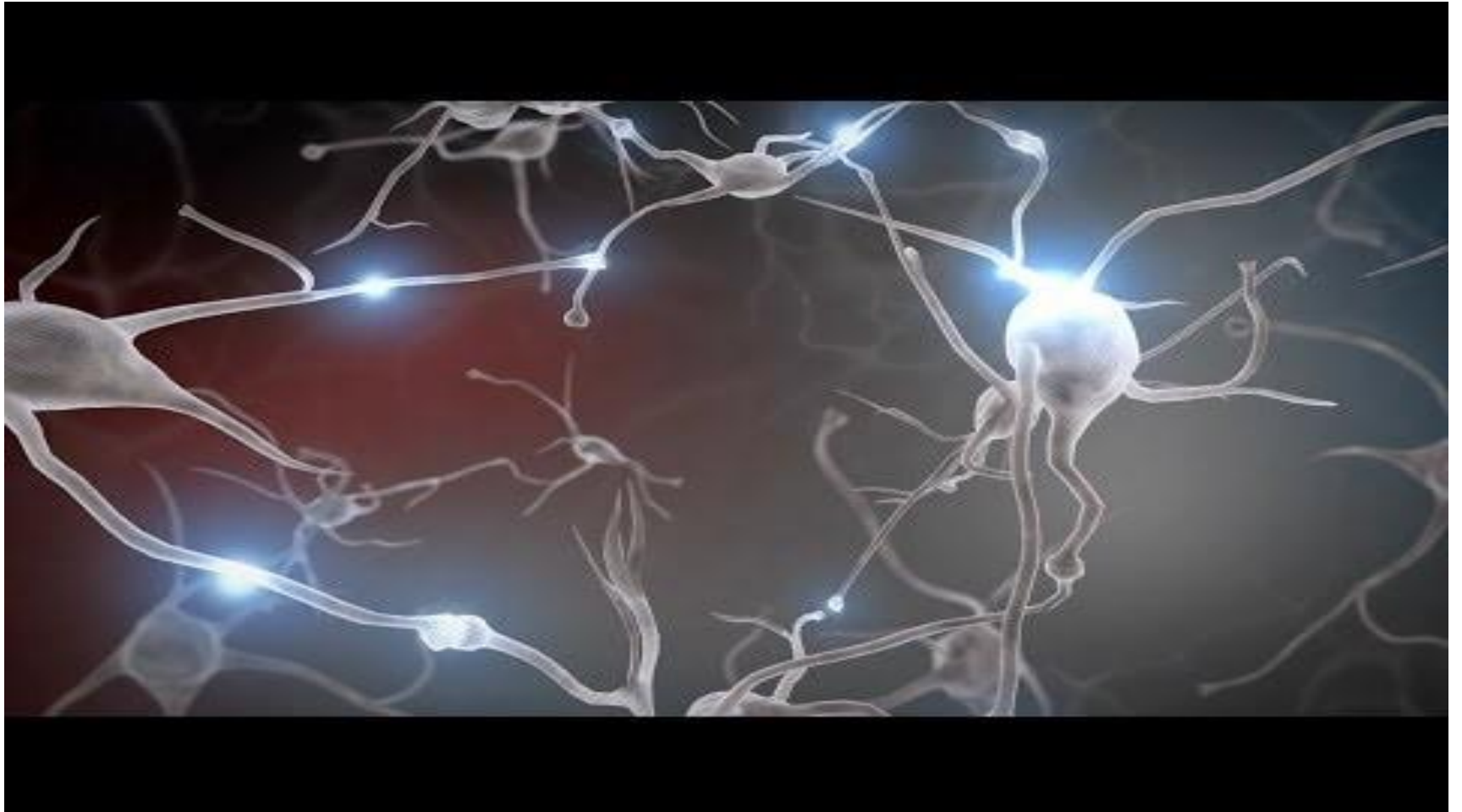
For families, **libraries** provide the books, media, and activities that help them open doors for children's literacy and lifelong learning.

Making New York State public libraries a welcoming place for all families with young children.



Learning about brain research





Parents are a child's first teacher



Family Engagement



Libraries offer welcoming environments for families



autodidact:

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“Good parents were those who provided for their children and taught them to be mannerly, respectful, and responsible.

Parents . . . worried about the basics, such as food and shelter.

Were their children dressed appropriately? Did they sit up straight? Did they get enough to eat and proper medical care?”

-Center for Parenting Education

“. . . I need—desperately, seriously, dying-man-in-the-desert-level need—one area of my life as a parent that I do not have to agonize about. As a modern mother, I am required to obsess over every. single. aspect. of my children’s lives. I have to make ALL THE CHOICES about ALL THE THINGS and I am EXHAUSTED.”

-Jennifer Wiler, personal blog

Parenting Choices







We are tired, like just-had-a-newborn tired. We often feel alone.



We are deeply concerned about our child's development. We worry about their acceptance in the world.



Some of our children have medical conditions or syndromes that you have never even heard of.



Most of our children have spent time in hospitals, significant time, countless hours with specialists.



It is hard to see children develop in what's considered a "typical" way, no matter what we say.

No one wants to be a bad parent.



Activity!

A Day in the Life of
a Young Family

What can we expect
from these little kids?



Toddler Rules of Possession

If I like it, it's mine.

If it's in my hand, it's mine.

If I can take it from you, it's mine.

If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.

If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.

If it looks just like mine, it is mine.

If I saw it first, it's mine.

If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.

If it's broken, it's yours.

If it's broken, but you are having fun playing with the pieces, it's mine again.

If there is ANY doubt, it's mine.



Activity!

Child Development

For each age group:

Characteristics	Parenting challenges for parents and caregivers
Challenges for family library visits	Ways staff and library can make families more welcome

Ages and Stages

Babies 0-3 months

Babies 4-6 months

Toddlers 7-18 months

Toddlers 19-23 months

Two year-olds

Three year-olds

Four year-olds



Children with disabilities



What do parents want from the library?





Top things parents come to the library
to do:

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- Borrow print books

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- Borrow print books
- Browse the shelves for books or media

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- Attend or bring a younger person to a class, program, or event designed for children or teens

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- Research topics that interest them
- Get help from a librarian

-“Parents, Children, Libraries, and Reading,” May 2013,
Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project



Activity!

Discussion: how can we make library experiences easier for families with young children?

Helping families adapt to the library environment



We represent the library
whenever we're there



Your approach makes a difference



What's our goal in approaching families having a difficult time?



Resolve the immediate problem



Focus on preserving the relationship between the family and the library



Start from a place of kindness and
compassion




Suspend judgment



Establish library use boundaries in a professional manner





Principles of Positive Discipline: strategies to teach and train.

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NOT punishment.

Give attention to the behavior you
like



Demonstrate respect



Try to connect with a child before addressing the behavior



Ask simple questions and use simple language



Provide an incompatible alternative



Offer two choices, both acceptable
to you



Allow time to self-correct



Acknowledge wants and feelings



Try whispering



Suggest a change of environment



Adapt the environment



Enlist help to understand





Activity!

Discussion, Part 1:
What has already
been done to make
your library more
welcoming to young
families?



Activity!

Discussion, Part 2:
What more could be
done to make your
library more
welcoming to young
families?

What are the best practices for all library staff in welcoming young families and strengthening their connection to the library?

Challenge yourself to be welcoming
and enjoy the smiles!





Activity!

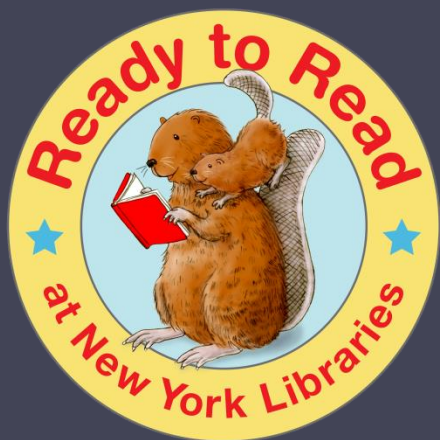
Act as if

Everyone serves families
with young children.



Make the choice to be welcoming.
Every family, every time.





Thank you!

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