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.
Everyone Serves Families with Young Children
Activity!

Danger Signs
autodidact
autodidact

au·to·di·dact
autodidact: a self-taught person
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.

- Harvard Family Research Project, August 2016 FINE Newsletter
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: a self-taught person
“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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Parenting challenges for parents and caregivers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges for family library visits</td>
<td>Ways staff and library can make families more welcome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:
Top things parents come to the library to do:

- Borrow print books
Top things parents come to the library to do:

- Borrow print books
- Browse the shelves for books or media
Top things parents come to the library to do:

- Borrow print books
- Browse the shelves for books or media
- Attend or bring a younger person to a class, program, or event designed for children or teens
Top things parents come to the library to do:

• Borrow print books
• Browse the shelves for books or media
• Attend or bring a younger person to a class, program, or event designed for children or teens
• Research topics that interest them
Top things parents come to the library to do:

• Borrow print books
• Browse the shelves for books or media
• Attend or bring a younger person to a class, program, or event designed for children or teens
• 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.
Principles of Positive Discipline: strategies to teach and train.

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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Everyone Serves Families with Young Children

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