



Background Information about Every Child Ready to Read® @ your library® Initiative

Every Child Ready to Read® @ your library® addresses a critical need.

In 2000, the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and the Public Library Association (PLA) responded to a national need. A number of research studies, including the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress, found that a significant percentage of children were entering kindergarten without the early literacy skills needed to learn to read.

ALSC and PLA entered into a conversation about how public libraries could address this critical concern. Because they serve children for years before they begin school, public libraries have many opportunities to provide early literacy and learning experiences. To have an even greater impact on these formative years, ALSC and PLA partnered with national researchers, leading educational experts, and organizations that serve young children to develop Every Child Ready to Read® (ECRR) @ your library®. By beginning in the years before school, this early literacy initiative helps prepare children for reading success in kindergarten and first grade, which lays a foundation for future reading achievement.

Every Child Ready to Read® is a parent education initiative.

Traditionally, early literacy programs at libraries have focused on children. Storytimes and other programs might model strategies that parents can use to develop early literacy skills, but parent education is not typically the primary intent.

ALSC and PLA concluded that public libraries could have an even greater impact on early literacy through an approach that focused on educating parents and caregivers. If the primary adults in a child's life can learn more about the importance of early literacy and how to nurture pre-reading skills at home, the effect of library efforts can be multiplied many times.

Teaching parents and other caregivers how to support the early literacy development of their children was the basis for the first edition of Every Child Ready to Read® @ your library®. The focus on educating parents and caregivers was a significantly different approach for many libraries, but one that has proven its value since the first edition of Every Child Ready to Read® was introduced in 2004.

Every Child Ready to Read® is research based.

The Every Child Ready to Read® curriculum is grounded in early literacy research, which has guided the content of both the first and second editions. The curriculum is based on tested, research-based principles and best practices from exemplary early literacy programs.

Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.

—Emilie Buchwald