BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

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BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Virginia Beach Public Library Preschool Outreach model
- VBPL & our Virginia Beach Head Start Partnership
- Connecting with the Public Library in your Community
- Strategies for Success
- Partnership Sustainability
- Questions and Discussion
2,557,104
ITEMS CIRCULATED
FY17
1,672,127
LIBRARY VISITS
FY17
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
VBPL OUTREACH SERVICES FOR PRESCHOOLS

- Institute library cards with full account privileges
- Onsite programming (storytimes) & book deposits
- Teacher training
- Library card drives for families
- Partnering for a parent night or community event
- Summer Reading Challenge
- Branch tours

Shared services model: Library Branches & ELO
- Strategic Planning
- Schedule Coordination
- Flexible staff coverage
EARLY LITERACY OUTREACH TEAM

1 Librarian/Coordinator
3 Library Programming Specialists
1 Library Services Specialist
2 Vehicles
OUR MISSION
The Early Literacy Outreach team supports the City’s early childhood initiative that all children enter school developmentally prepared to succeed.
What we do...

Present high quality, skill-based ECRR (Every Child Ready to Read) storytimes in classrooms, and on the Bookmobile.
What we do...

Provide teacher and parent trainings to establish and enhance relationships with caregivers and service providers.
What we do...

Develop a specialized library collection devoted exclusively to early literacy outreach services, focusing on materials for ages 0-5 and their caregivers. These materials are available for check out by children, teachers, and parents. The ELO collection has over 5,000 circulating items.
An early literacy classroom on wheels!

Seating for 24 children & 4 adults
A typical week of Early Literacy Outreach service

- 14 preschools visited
- 26 storytimes
- 1,100 materials checked out in preschools
- 126 miles traveled
A driving force in early literacy!
HEAD START LOCATIONS IN VIRGINIA BEACH

VB City Program administered by Mile High Kids and Community Development, Inc. (non-profit)

Program is full day and year round

Holland Road 5 classes
Hampshire Lane 4 classes
Twin Canal 1 class
St. Aidans 1 class
Atlantis 1 class

Motto:
Elevate Aptitudes to New Altitudes!
The Reality
- History of inconsistent services
- Inequitable services across the five locations
- Service model differences
- Lack of continuity with library staffing
- Head Starts were not always prioritized

The Vision
Create and implement an outreach plan that would:
- Provide a consistency of services
- Establish a core of highly-trained staff to deliver the services
- Standardize storytime programming
- Build a framework for regular visits year-round
- Ensure equitable services for all sites
- Prioritize Head Start sites
VBPL & OUR HEAD START PARTNERSHIP

The Plan

- Decided that visits would be bi-monthly at all sites
- Compared calendars to designate weeks for services
- Selected the best day of the week for all locations
- Created a rotation schedule to split visits into a 2-week cycle
- Collected data on classes (teacher names, number of children)
- Established program times for each class
- Assigned ELO staff to classes
- Issued institute cards to all teachers for class use
- Communicated regularly to confirm schedule
Find Your Public Library System

Library of Virginia Tool
CONNECTING WITH THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Contact Your Public Library System to Inquire About Preschool Services

Ask about outreach services—the library comes to your location
Ask about services at the branch—you go to the library location

- Visit a library branch in person
- Call the main library phone number
- Review the library’s web site for contact information
  - Email the main address on the library web site
  - Email the contacts under Youth and/or Family Services
CONNECTING WITH THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Find Out What Specific Services Are Offered by Asking Questions

- Can our preschool get a library card to check out materials?
- Can library staff come to our location to do storytimes or other programs?
- Could we have library books delivered to our preschool?
- Do you have any training available for our teachers or parents?
- Would you be able to help our families get library cards?
- Would it be possible for a library staff member to attend our upcoming event to share library information?
- Is there a way for our preschool to participate in your Summer Reading Program?
- Could we bring our children to a branch location for a library tour?
CONNECTING WITH THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Share Information to Help Your Library Plan

- The number of Head Start sites in the jurisdiction
- Coordinator/Manager name and contact
- Location addresses & phone numbers
- Main contact person at each location
- How many classes are at each site
- How many students per class
- Teacher and assistant names
- Arrival and dismissal times
- Breakfast & Lunch times
- Nap times
- Dates the sites will be closed
- Parking availability
STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Communicate regularly
- Utilize email
- Centralize the sharing of information
- Invite library staff to your team or district meeting
- Share updated staff contacts as needed
- Use an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)
- Give library staff a copy of your annual calendar
- Notify library staff about site closings
- Group locations and classes together for library services
- Adhere to time schedule
- Ensure site staff remain with children during library program
- Share your curriculum themes and targeted subjects
- Plan ahead
- Be flexible
PARTNERSHIP SUSTAINABILITY

- Stay in touch
- Keep all information updated
- Give feedback
- Make changes to the service plan as needed for success
- Tell others about your library services
“The Bookmobile has given us the inspiration to do more songs and stories throughout the day.”
“The students absolutely love the songs, rhymes, characters, props, and books provided for each session that you offer. Additionally, we thank you for providing monthly books to our centers that coincide with our monthly thematic units.”
QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION