National Strategy for Early Literacy

Presentation by the Children and Youth Services Committee of Ontario Public Library Association

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Ottawa Ontario
Public Libraries: Community places for promoting and providing Early Literacy
Public Libraries

• Over 3000 service points in communities right across the country

• Service and resources in many languages

• Strong community partnerships
Early Literacy in public libraries

- Public libraries play a lead role in their communities in promoting and supporting early literacy
  - Direct services and programs
  - Partnerships with community organizations
  - Support to parents, caregivers and teachers in the community
Programs for literacy and reading

Young children and their families

- Newborn book bags/kits
- Strong collections of freely available books and resources
- Staff trained to help parents find and use resources for themselves and their children
- Interactive storytimes and programs
- Every Child Ready to Read
Every Child Ready to Read @ your library
Programs for literacy and reading

School aged children

• Book clubs, special events, author visits
• Support to local schools and homeschoolers
• Summer reading club.
Promoting early literacy

Library Outreach

- School, child care centres
- Local health and literacy fairs
- Community centres
- Workplace learning
- Prenatal and parenting classes
Promoting early literacy

Work with community partners

• Early years centres
• Best Start
• Community health centres
• Big brothers Big Sisters
• Multicultural agencies
Promoting early literacy

Promotional campaigns

• Bus campaigns
• Newspaper campaigns – card campaigns
• Family Literacy Day events
Early literacy spaces

Library spaces are open, accessible and appealing to families.

In many communities the public library is the only space where families can gather at no charge.

Public libraries are working hard to create spaces that help tell the “early literacy story”
Why the public library?

• Service points in communities right across the country
• Trained staff working with many partner agencies
• In many communities the public library provides the best hours and access to free materials.
• Early literacy has been a cornerstone service in public libraries for many years.
• Open access to the whole community – parents, caregivers, teachers, child care professionals, researchers…