Every Child Ready to READ®

Early Literacy and Learning Spaces:
A workshop for library staff

Mohawk Valley Library System
Upper Hudson Library System
The early literacy environment matters.
What was your favorite play environment as a child??

The early literacy environment matters.
To get ready to read, children need an environment that supports early literacy and learning.
Why not the Library? Where else BUT the Library!

The early literacy environment matters.
Focus on creating spaces that support the five early literacy practices from ECRR 2nd Edition to help every child get ready to read.
Personal Component: That’s US!
To get ready to read

Designing early literacy and learning spaces: Environment matters.
The early literacy environment matters.

Use these design principles to help create effective early literacy and learning environments:

- Use color, shapes, textures, light, and space to create an appealing environment.

- Provide attractive and well-organized materials and displays.

- Provide easy access to materials, displays, and learning activities. See the environment at children’s eye level.

- Design with flexibility in mind.

- Make spaces interactive.

“Children need an environment: Rich in experience… Rich in play… Rich in teaching… Rich with people… Where they are significant.”

From Caring Spaces, Learning Spaces by Jim Greenman
The early literacy environment matters.

Design Principle: Appealing environment

1. First impressions
2. Signage
3. Graphics
4. Lighting
Design Principle: Organized displays

Use face-out displays to encourage children to browse and choose titles for themselves.

Use seasonal or thematic displays with hands-on activities to engage children and parents.

Change or rotate displays at regular intervals to create ongoing interest.
The early literacy environment matters.
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Design Principle: Easy access to materials
The early literacy environment matters.

Design Principle: Flexibility
Design Principle: Interactive spaces
Now it’s your turn.

Apply the design principles to your library spaces. Discuss ways you can use these principles to create space that supports the five early literacy practices.
The early literacy environment matters.

Principles into practice: Talking
The early literacy environment matters.

Principles into practice: Singing
The early literacy environment matters.

Principles into practice: Reading
The early literacy environment matters.

Principles into practice: Writing
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Library spaces create exciting places for every child to get ready to read.