




Supporting Early Literacy through Language-Rich Library Environments

Saroj Ghoting

ALA Editions Webinar
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Early Literacy Learning Spaces

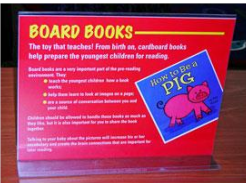


Home
Trainings
Every Child Ready to
Read
Libraries
Resources
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- Table Tents (photo)
(Iowa Library Service Areas, Early Childhood Literacy)
 - [Print Awareness Template 1](#)
 - [Print Awareness Template 2](#)
 - [Phonological Awareness Template](#)
- Examples of Early Literacy Spaces
 - [KDLville Early Literacy Play Spaces](#)
 - [Kent \(MI\) District Library](#) (includes checklists, ideographs, signage, & more)
 - [Storyville at Rosedale Branch of Baltimore Co. \(MD\) Public Library](#)
 - [Rancho Cucamonga \(CA\) Public Library](#)
 - [Play Islands](#)
 - [Photos Video](#)
- [Early Literacy Activity Centers](#) Baltimore County (MD) Public Libraries by Marisa Conner
- Presentations from PLA 2008 Conference on Children's Spaces, Family Places: Developing Interactive Early Literacy Environments in Your Library
 - [The Role of the Physical Environment in Early Learning and Early Literacy](#) by Nina Ebbighausen, Senior Associate, Architectural Alliance & Adjunct Prof., U of MN
 - [Designing Especially for Libraries](#) by Kim van der Veen, Principal, Burgeon Group
 - [Planning Language Rich Environments](#) by Peg Sullivan, Director, Merchandising & Marketing, Highsmith, Inc.
 - [Early Literacy Environments in Your Library](#) by Dana Bjerke, Joanna Redman, and Kelly Wussow, Hennepin Public Library (for more [handouts](#), scroll down to PLA Tues 3/25/08)



Baltimore County Public Library



Baltimore County Public Library



www.earlylit.net/libraryenvironment/index.shtml

Acknowledgements

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Overview

- **Early Literacy Skills**
- **Play**
- **What are language-rich environments**
- **Examples**
- **Strategies**
- **Considerations**
- **Trends**
- **Questions**



Early Literacy Skills

- **Print Motivation**
- **Vocabulary**
- **Narrative Skills**
- **Phonological Awareness**
- **Print Awareness**
- **Letter Knowledge**

Print Motivation



**Child's interest in
and enjoyment
of books and reading**



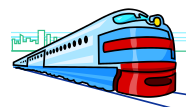
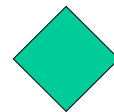
West Bloomfield Township (MI) Public Library



Vocabulary

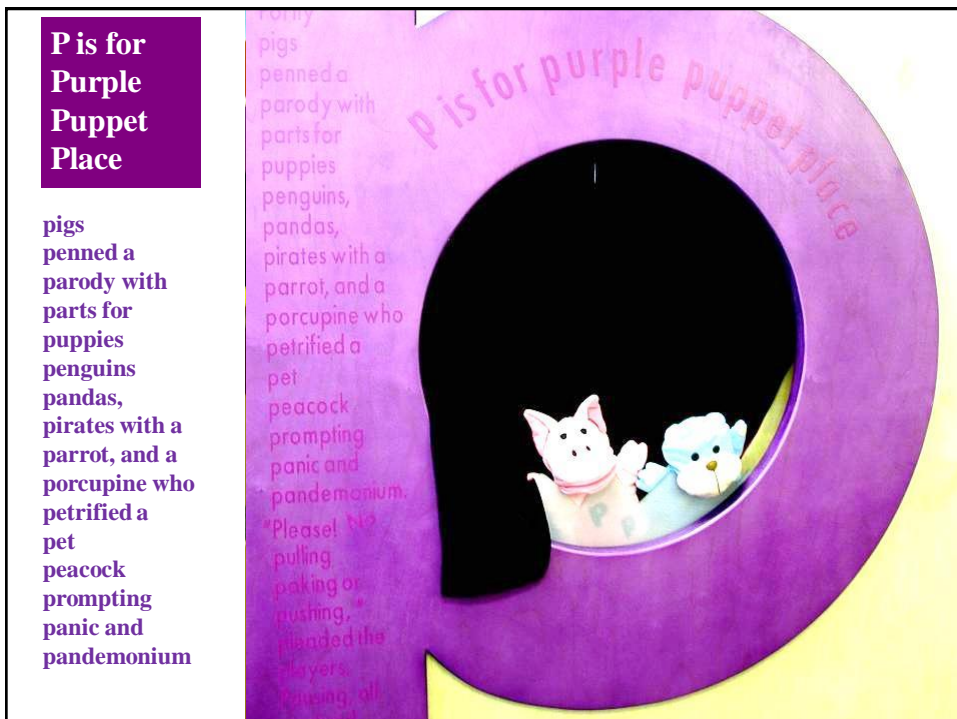


**Knowing the
meanings of words**





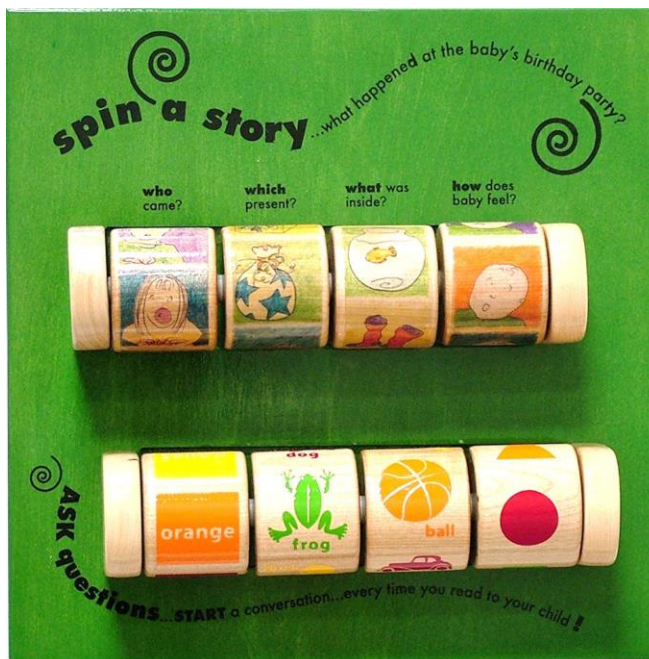
Central Library
Hennepin County (MN) Public Library



Narrative Skills



The child's ability to describe things and events, and to tell and retell stories



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Phonological Awareness

The ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words



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Hennepin County (MN) Public Library



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Hennepin County (MN) Public Library

Print Awareness

Print has meaning



- Knowing how to handle a book

- Knowing how we follow the words on a page

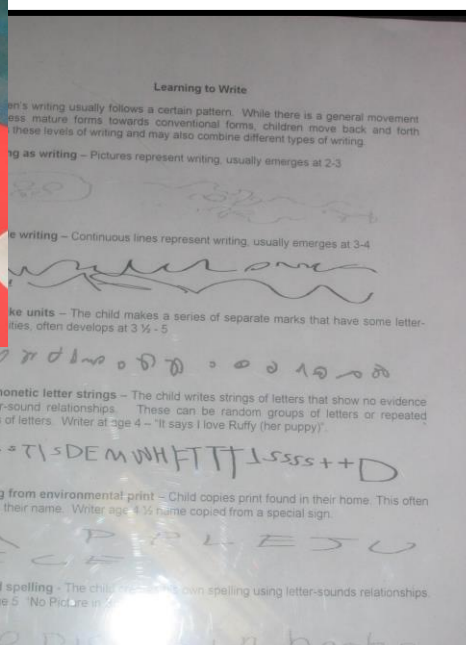


- Noticing print everywhere



Writing Area

Burton Barr Central Library
Phoenix (AZ) Public Library

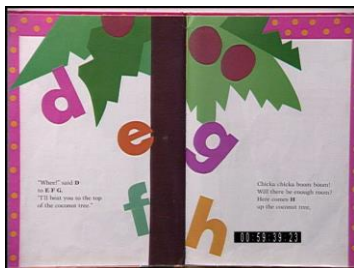




Allen County (IN) Public Library

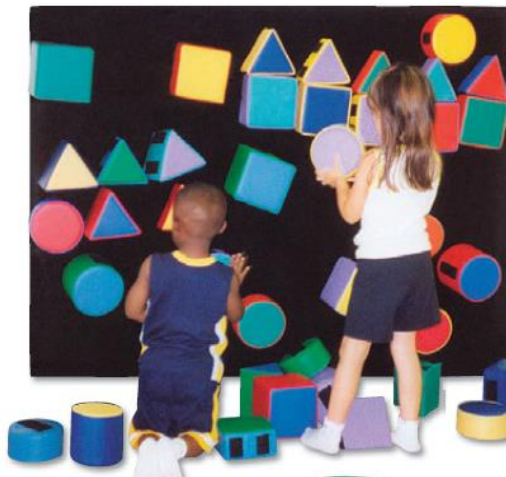


Letter Knowledge

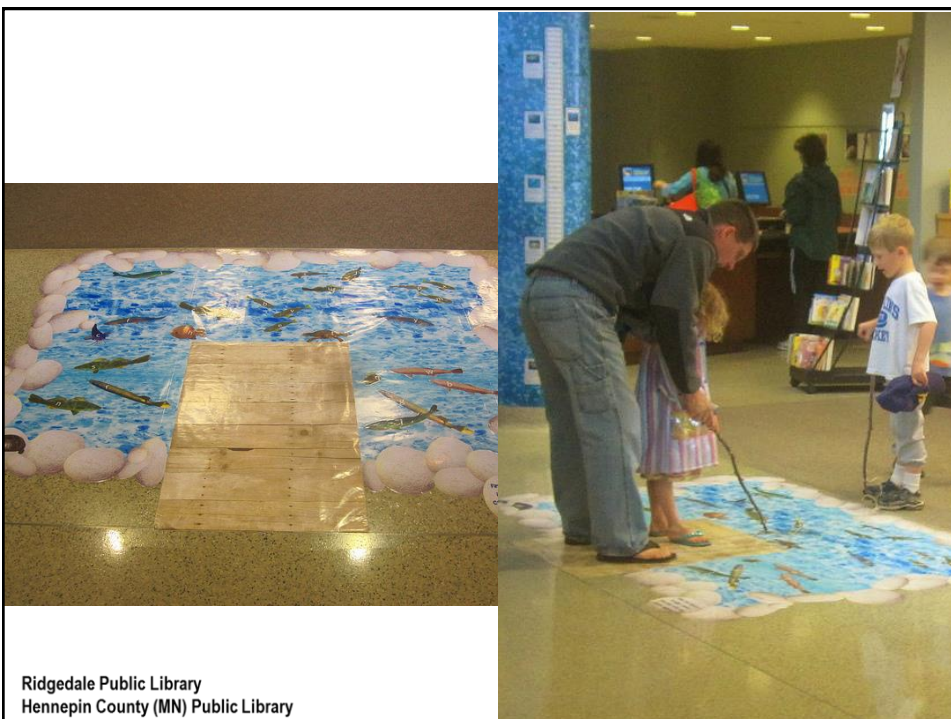


Knowing that letters are different from each other, that they have different names and represent sounds

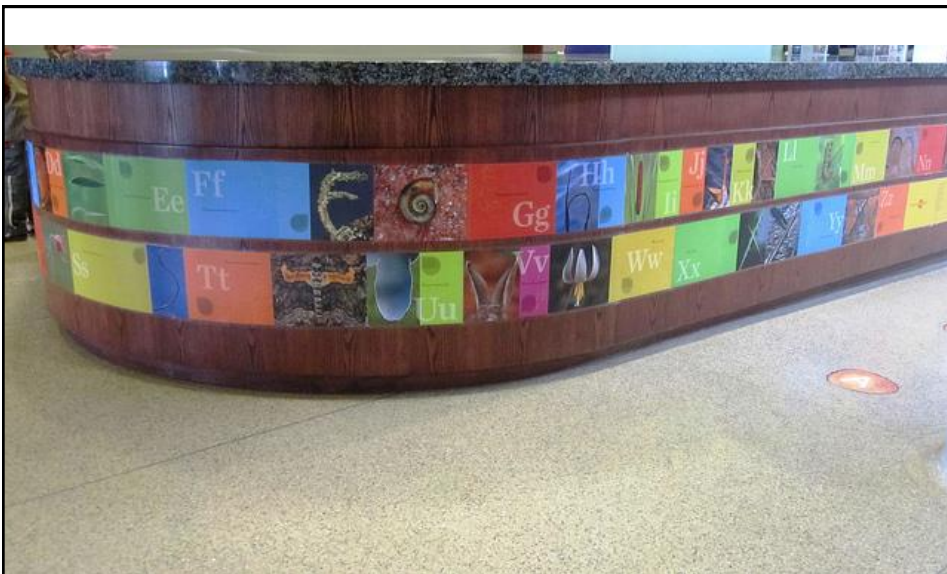




Safespace Concepts, Inc.

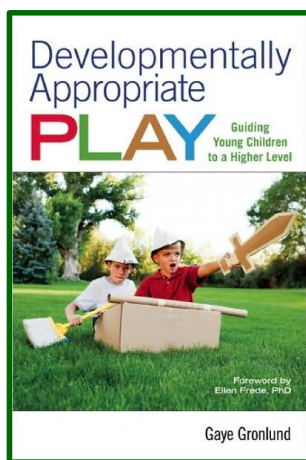


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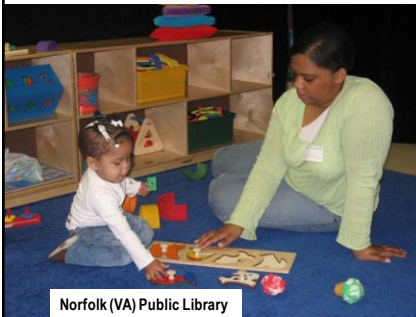
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Encourage Learning through Play



Not Just Any Play Levels of Play

1. Chaotic or out-of-control play
2. Simplistic and repetitive play
3. Purposeful, complex play that engages children



Environments can offer opportunities for

- Vocabulary development
- Writing
- Talking about memories and stories by both adults and children
- Exploring and experimenting
- Children recounting what they know
- Using their imaginations and conceptual thinking through the use of open-ended toys and materials that encourage dramatic play

Creating Language-Rich Library Environments



What are language-rich library environments?

Spaces and places that encourage language-rich interactions between young children and parents/caregivers with the intention of building school readiness skills



School readiness domains include:

- Language and Literacy
- Social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Approaches to learning
- Cognitive and general knowledge
- Mathematical and scientific thinking
- The arts

Additional Characteristics

- Articulate for the parent/ caregiver the relationship between the language-rich environment/activities and later reading
- Offer ideas and aids for on-going language and literacy development even after leaving the library



Language-Rich Settings in the Library

- Storytimes
- Playtimes/Craft Times following storytimes
- Playtime/Craft Programs
- Family Place Libraries™
- Discovery Rooms
- Outdoor Areas
- Open Areas





Discovery Room

Germantown Library
Montgomery County (MD) Public Library



Family Place Libraries™





Language-rich environments
in open areas
of the library



Components of language-rich environments

- **Affective Component**
 - **Design Aspect**
 - **Personal Aspect**
- **Content Component**
 - **Physical Aspect**
 - **Informational Aspect**



Affective Component

- **Invites and welcomes children and adults**
- **Engages children and adults**
- **Conveys come and stay**
- **Says stay and play/read together**
- **Promotes feelings of security and comfort for adults and children**
- **Encourages exploration**

Design Aspect

- Conveys beauty
- Scale
- Lighting
- Colors
- Arrangement



Personal Aspect

- Personal welcome
- Staff/volunteers show interest; users feel valued, respected
- Staff/volunteers support feeling of security
- Staff/volunteers model/support encouragement of exploration





West Bloomfield Township (MI) Public Library



Ridgedale Public Library
Hennepin County (MN) Public Library



Norfolk (VA) Public Library



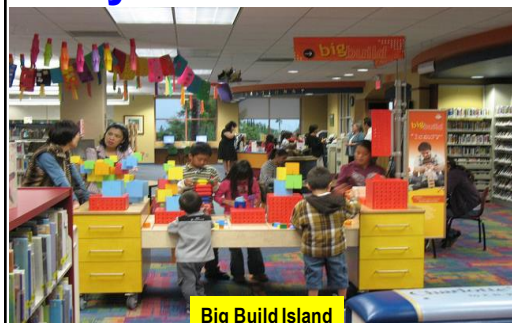
IlluminART



Make It Move

Play & Learn Islands™

Rancho Cucamonga (CA) Public Library



Big Build Island



Discovery Dig

Content Component

- Quiet spots to read together
- Spaces that encourage exploration
- Support exposure to variety of concepts and ideas
- Topics and activities that engage children and adults
- Writing/drawing activities
- Books/print in easy reach/view
- Messages to adults on ways to support early literacy
- Both reflects and expands community
- Visible brand name

Physical Aspect

- Seating or space to accommodate interaction between adults and children
- Age-appropriate toys and manipulatives
- Materials to encourage exploration—exposure to variety of concepts and ideas
- Materials and space for writing/drawing
- Functional use of print—labeled items: words and pictures
- Books integrated into immediate area
- Incorporates early literacy information into the environment itself
- Displays of children's work
- Photographs of people in community
- Brand name visible

Informational Aspect

- Signage to convey early literacy information
- Signage to convey additional information on a topic or theme
- Staff/volunteers who convey early literacy information
- Staff/volunteers who model and encourage language-rich interactions
- Staff/volunteers to model and encourage higher levels of play
- Ideas and aids to continue early literacy activities at home

Putting It All Together

Examples of Language-Rich Library Environments



Engaging— That Sense of Discovery



Built into the floor

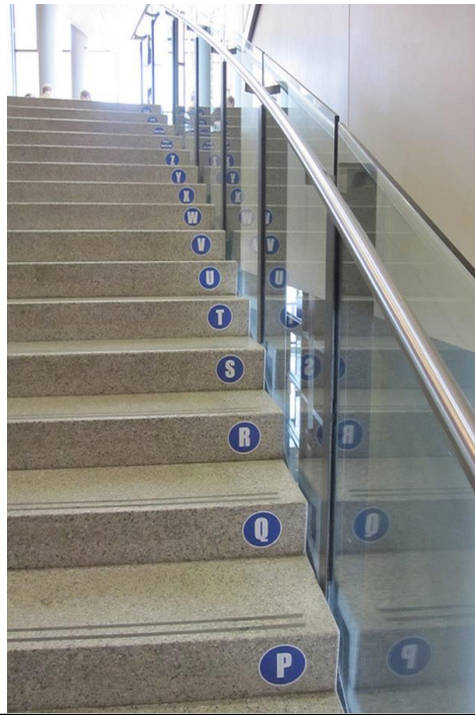
Storyville, Baltimore County Public Library
www.bcplstoryville.org



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What size are you?



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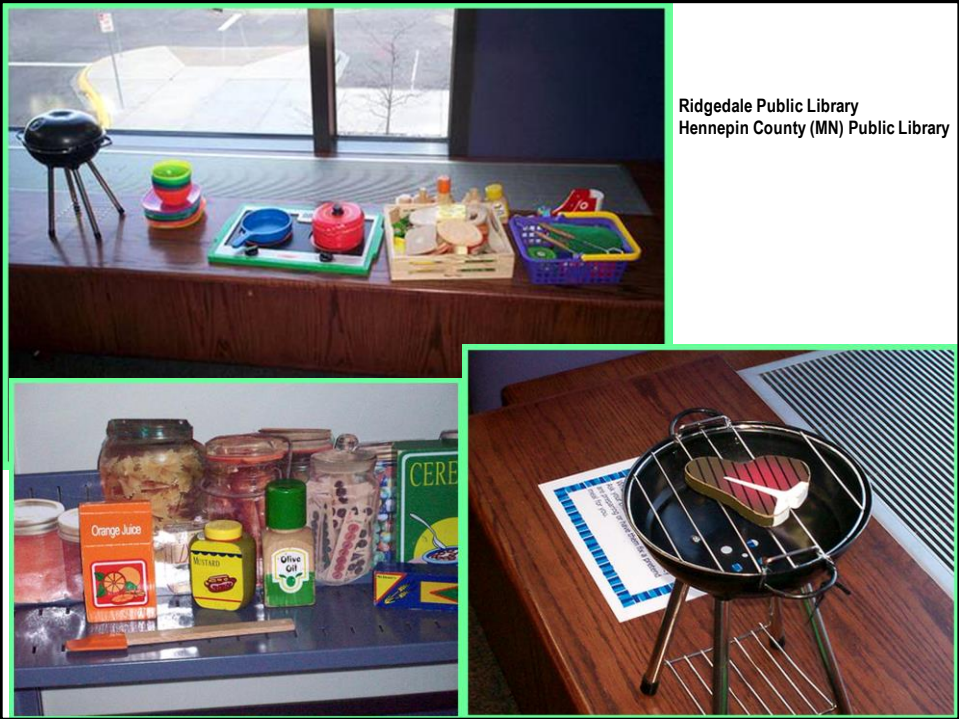


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Hennepin County (MN) Public Library







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Hennepin County (MN) Public Library





Early Literacy Centers

Baltimore County (MD) Public Library
Carroll County (MD) Public Library



Carson (CA) Public Library before
Family Place Libraries™



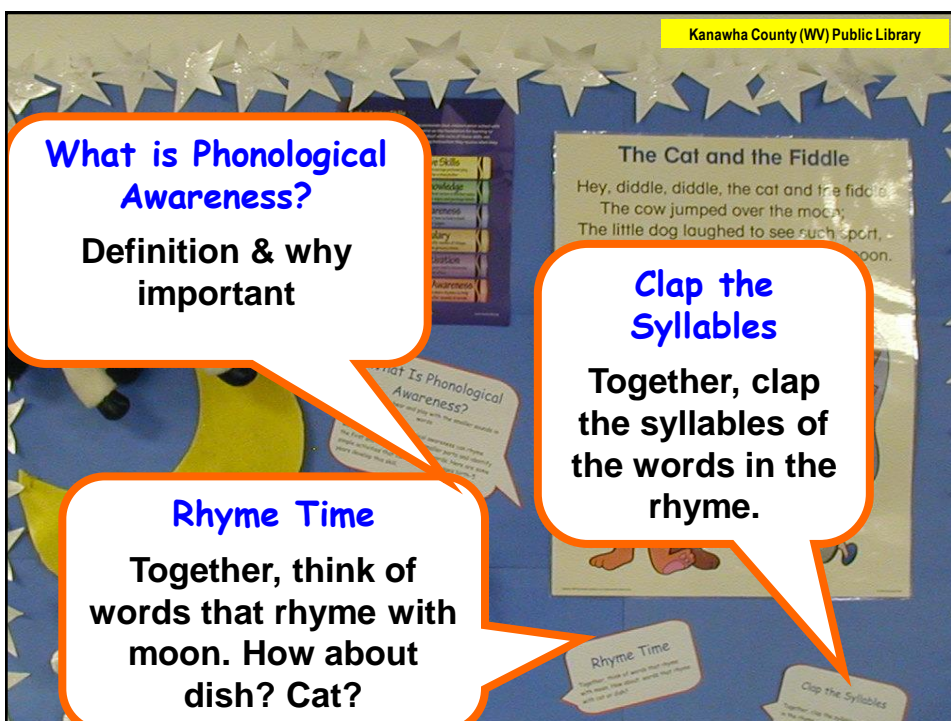
Carson (CA) Public Library after
Family Place Libraries™

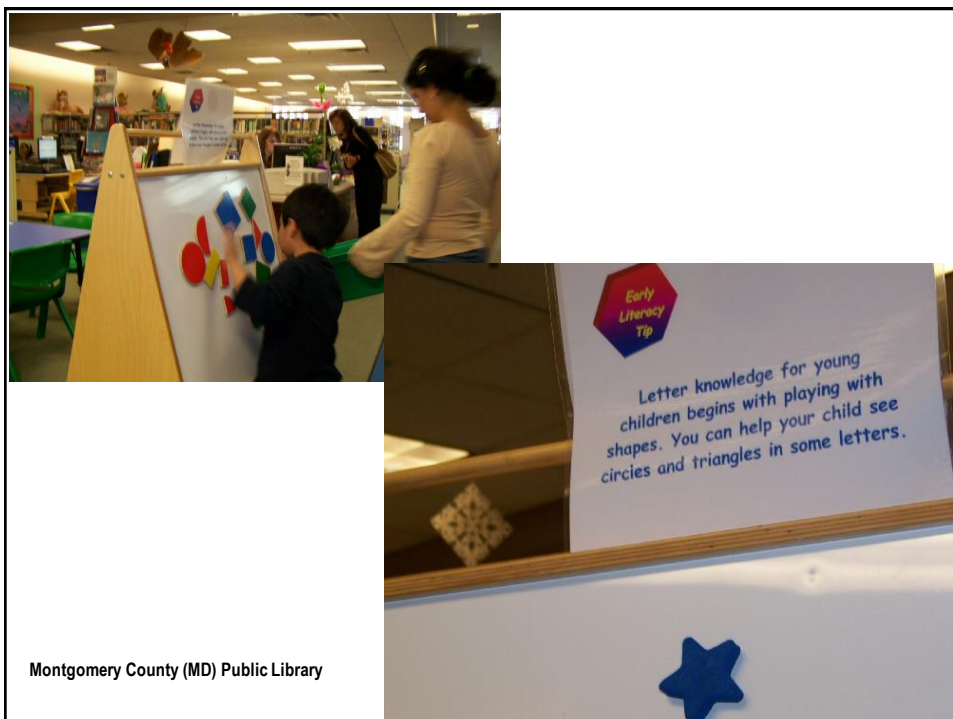
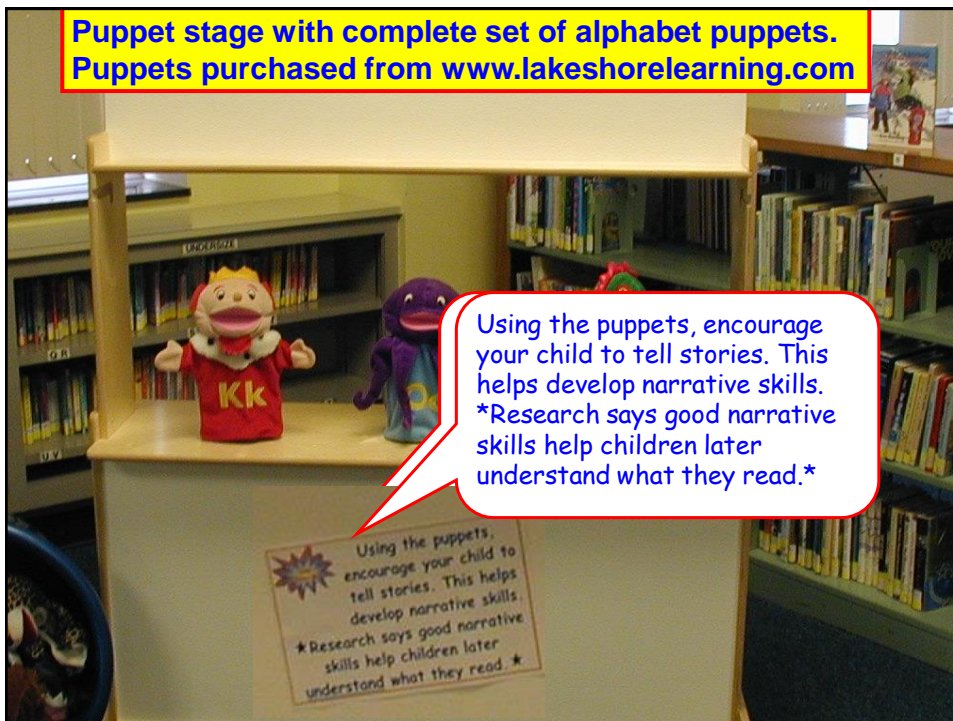


Norfolk (VA) Public Library before
Family Place Libraries™



Norfolk (VA) Public Library after
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Early Literacy Activity Centers

Alphabet Bags

Search and Find Alphabet Bags

Contents:

26 Alphabet Bags (in two bins)

Adult-Child Activities:

Search & Find Alphabet Bags give children a hands-on way to explore letter sounds - from A to Z!

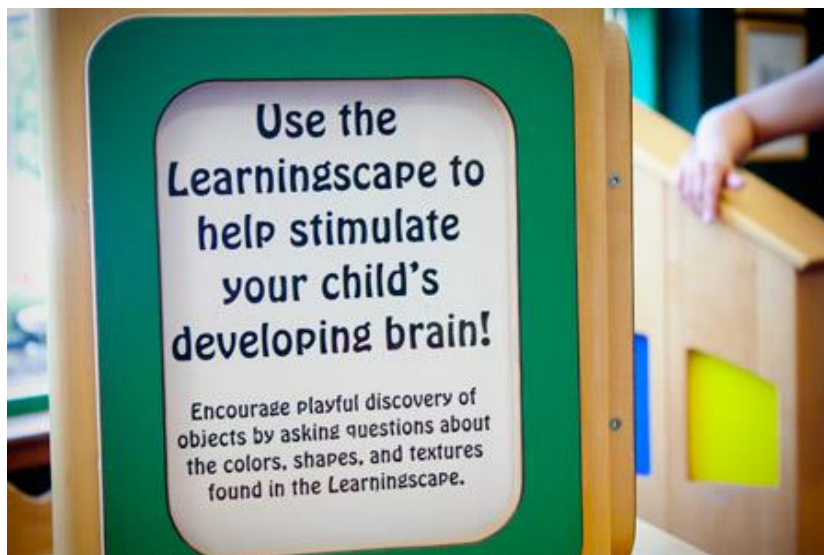
Talk with your child as they sift through the beads in each bag, discovering objects that represent each letter sound.

Talk about the names of the objects they find.

Name and match the letters inside the bag to the letters on the bag.



Baltimore County (MD) Public Library



West Bloomfield (MI) Township Public Library





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**Whales are very big
And they swim under the sea
Swimming, swimming happily
With all their friends and family**

Bathroom door



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Hennepin County (MN) Public Library



West Bloomfield (MI) Township Public Library



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Family Place Libraries™

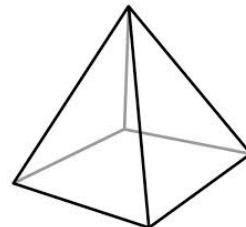
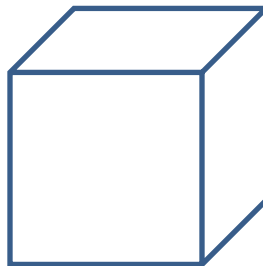
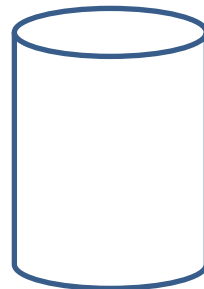
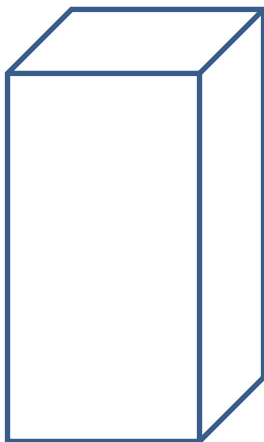


Considerations

- Change within structure
- Mobility
- Storage
- Writing



What Can You Do With a . . .









Magnetic Paint



ABCstuff www.abcstuff.com



Writing



Trends

- **Outdoor Spaces**
- **School Readiness Domains in addition to Early Literacy Skills**
- **Building Infrastructure as Environment**



Outdoors





School Readiness Domains Early Learning Standards Common Core State Standards

- Physical and Motor Development
- Social and Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Language Development and Literacy
- Cognition and General Knowledge
- Mathematical and Scientific Thinking
- The Arts





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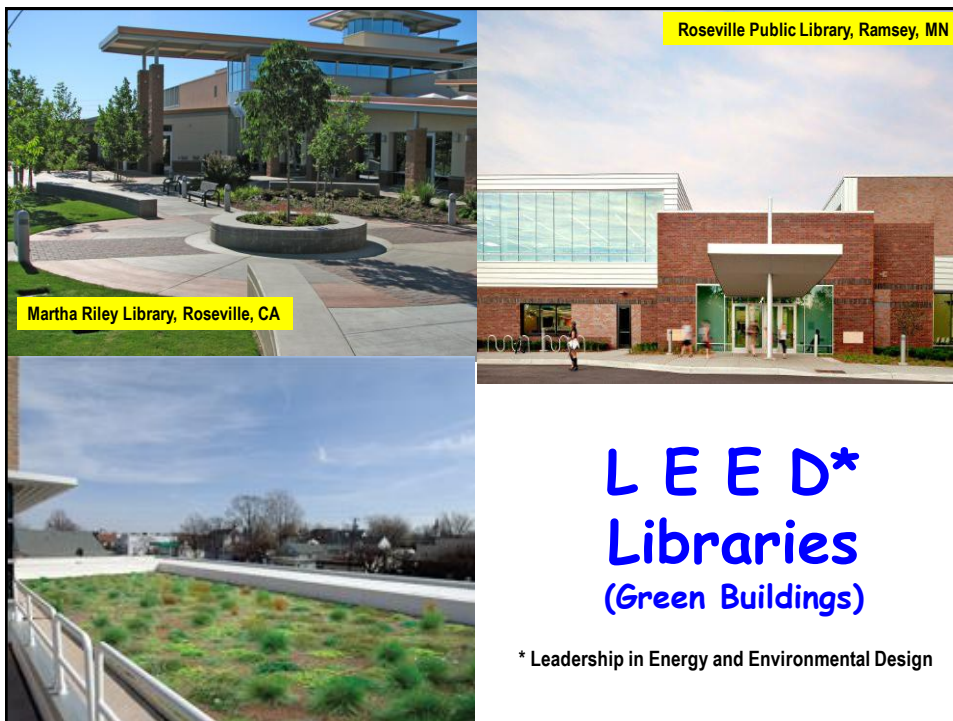
West Bloomfield Township (MI) Public Library



Building Infrastructure As Learning Environment

- Children love to know how things work!
- Can't see it at home—can you reveal it at the library?
 - Insulation and heating system
 - Pipes and plumbing
 - Wiring and electric
 - Security system
 - Workings of a toilet





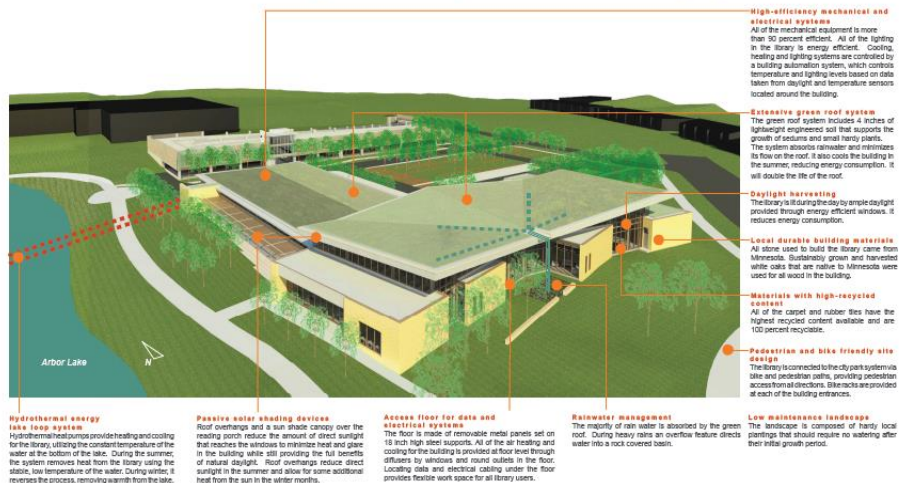
LEED Opportunities

Green User Education Program—1 point!

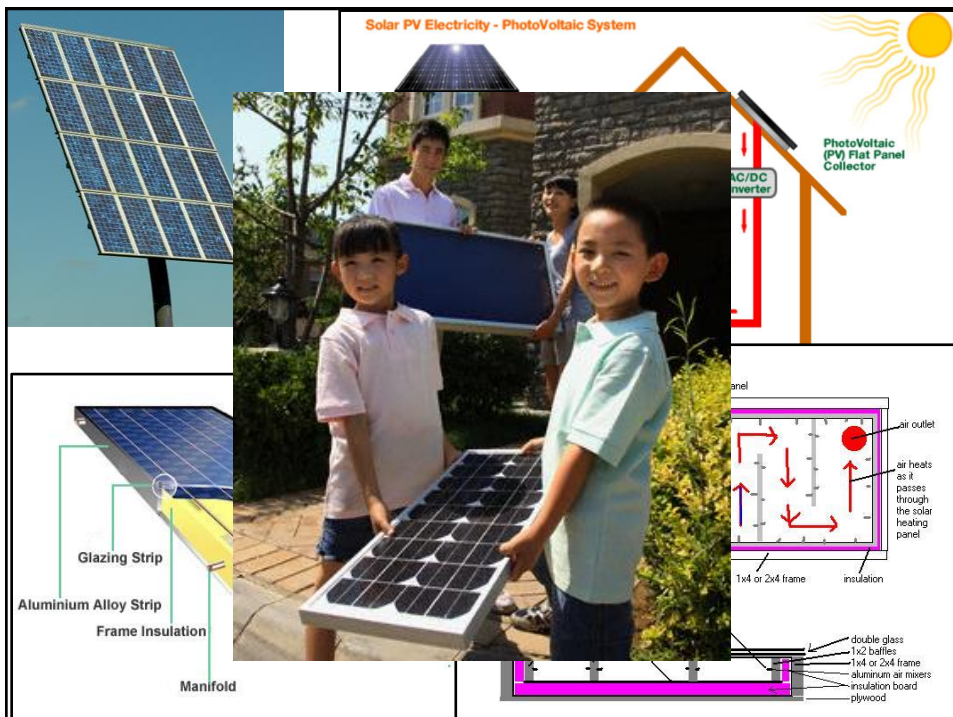
- Passive solar
- Hydrothermal heating systems
- Daylight harvesting techniques
- Green roof systems
- Materials
- And more!

HOW DOES IT WORK? Integrated Sustainable Design

The library was designed to **exceed the Minnesota energy code** by more than **40 percent**; providing potential **annual energy savings** of more than **1,300,108 kWh**.



Hennepin County Library - Maple Grove





**Paul Smith Children's Village
at the Botanic Gardens
Cheyenne, Wyoming**



**Paul Smith Children's Village at the Botanic Gardens
Cheyenne, Wyoming**



Presented by

Saroj Ghoting
Early Childhood Literacy Consultant
540-381-2676
sghoting@gmail.com
www.earlylit.net

2011

