

Public Libraries and Early Literacy—Executive Summary

Recent studies have shown that children who enter school with a higher cognitive skills are more likely to maintain a high academic performance throughout their education. The development of early literacy skills provide a solid foundation for future education and job training. Public libraries provide vital resources for early literacy development, including storytimes, parent education, materials, and support of both professionals and peers. Furthermore, libraries encourage children to view reading as fun, rather than a chore or assignment, and help foster the parent-child interaction which is a key part of early cognitive development. Programs such as ALA's "Every Child Ready to Read" are particularly geared towards promoting early literacy development. Parents who take advantage of these programs are more likely share books and develop literacy skills with their children outside of the library.

Key Points

- Libraries offer free early literacy resources and education to the public
- Libraries create a fun environment for learning and parent-child interaction
- Libraries actively promote the early literacy skills which will have a positive effect on a child's academic performance
- Library programs encourage parents to continue early literacy development in their own homes

Sources

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