Welcome

Stay and Play: A new way to engage family, friends and neighbors who care for young children
Welcome from the California State Library

Jody Thomas, Library Programs Consultant
Stay & Play Pilot Project Overview

Julie Weatherston, Stay & Play Project Manager
Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN):

“Anyone who cares for a child but is not a licensed provider. This group includes extended family members, friends, and neighbors (FFNs), and other adults that might receive pay or barter for providing care.”

Brief Background

• In 2016 Oakland Public Library received a Packard Foundation Grant to create programming specifically for FFN in their community.

• The resulting Oakland Play Café led to a Pilot Grant to test this service model.

• Stay and Play was the name given to the tested model that resulted.

• Builds on the Early Learning with Families (ELF) Initiative.
Five Components of Stay and Play

1. Targeted and focused outreach to FFN providers
2. Library Storytimes specifically designed for informal caregivers and children
3. Play opportunities that model high quality care settings and encourage caregiver/child interactions
4. Programming, resource materials, and community experts to better equip caregivers with child development and early learning information
5. Provision of food or opportunities to accommodate the food needs of caregivers and children
Five Pilot Libraries

Fresno
Grass Valley
San Jose
Santa Barbara
Tulare
DONNA MORELLO
AMY RUTTEN
RACHEL TUCKER
MELLISA HANNUM

GRASS VALLEY LIBRARY – ROYCE BRANCH
NEVADA COUNTY COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Why Stay and Play?
Stay and Play
Thursdays 10am - 12pm
at the Grass Valley Library

Calling all grandparents, nannies, aunts and uncles, and all other caregivers!

Join us at the Grass Valley Library for time to play, learn, sing, read, and have fun together! Each session will feature a storyline, snacks, and an opportunity to learn together! Once a month a guest speaker will come to discuss topics surrounding childcare and answer any questions you have.

No registration required. Ages 0-5.
Developing the Space

WRITE
PAINTING with PIPETTES

Some fun things to try:
- Use the pipette to drop paint onto the paper!
- Try making big spots, medium spots, and small spots!
*Did you know? Pinching the pipette helps develop fine motor muscles used for writing!
How the Five Early Literacy Practices Influence Setup
Creating a Community Space Different from a Regular Storytime
Time-Lapse Video
SNACKS!
Why we do it the way we do.
Modeling Caregiver Interaction

• Two grandmothers come as strangers, and leave as friends, trading info and taking selfies to show their kids (parents of children attending) that they had made friends at the library today.

• Grandmother said it was her “favorite day.”

• The child in my care doesn’t “have any other opportunities to socialize with kids, so this is perfect!”
Community Partners

- Sierra Nevada Children’s Services
- FIRST 5 Nevada County
- Public Health
- 2-1-1
- Office of Emergency Services
- Grass Valley Police Department K-9
- Child Advocates of Nevada County
- Child Safety Puppeteers
Stay and Play
Eastside Branch Santa Barbara Public Library

Gwen Wagy

Cristal Gavilanes
Pop-up Meetings in Parks

FEBRUARY 2019
First Weekly Stay & Play at Eastside

SPRING 2019
Pilot Stay & Play at Harding School Parent English Conversation Group

SUMMER 2019
Older siblings joined us

FALL 2019
"Regulars" started preschool New babies joined us

FEBRUARY 2020
Welcomed to new space after Eastside re-model

PRESENT
Virtual Early Literacy Classes Re-Imagining get-togethers and take-home kits
How Is Stay & Play Different From Traditional Library Storytime?

Flexible start time before Library opens

- No stress about being “right on time” with toddlers.
- Lowered caregiver concern about “making too much noise in the Library.”
- Allowed for parent / caregiver drop-off & exchange.
How Is Stay & Play Different From Traditional Library Storytime?
How Is Stay & Play Different From Traditional Library Storytime?

Relaxed
- Free play
- Outside as much as possible
- Music in background
- Less overwhelming for those not comfortable with a large-group, guided activity
- Quiet spaces for children who needed it

Spread out over 2 Hours
- Enough time to build individual connections
- Caregivers could take turns staying with children and running errands
Food

- Coffee for adults
- Families walked over after school
  breakfast distribution
- Snacks after storytime
Guests

- Prepared outreach specialists for a more informal group
- Short presentation & then one-on-one conversations with caregivers

Participant-led invites:

- Experts that could answer developmental questions from caregivers
- Children engaged with garbage truck led to inviting Waste Management
- FoodBank
Familiar schedule and room set-up

- 8:30 open
- 40 minutes free play
- 9:40 informal group time
- 40 minutes free play
- Gradual “good-byes”
Physical Components

- Movable storage
- Learning toys
- To-be-cleaned bin
- Dishwasher
Successes

- Steady attendance
- Requests for more programming at the branch
- High number of Spanish speakers
- Caregivers sending photos of Stay & Play to child’s parents
- Engaged staff
- Growing numbers of caregivers with children in the Library at all times
- Caregivers who had at first been reluctant to use books in the Library got Library Cards at the end of the year
“Eastside Library Re-Opening” CityTV video on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTVtWcFDE-A
Stay & Play featured at 2 minutes; Free Play and Stories at 4:29
Panel Discussion:
How to maintain outreach when in-person services are not possible

Moderator:
Barbara Bruxvoort,
Stay and Play Advisory Committee Member
Library Services Manager, San Bruno Public Library
Keeping Things Active Through Covid Closures

Grab-and-Go Bags Filled with Early Literacy Activities

- Talk
- Sing
- Read
- Write
- Play

Storytime Starter Kits

- Shaky egg
- Scarf
- Bubbles
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Advisory Committee Members:
Carolyn Brooks, El Dorado County Library; Barbara Bruxvoort, San Bruno Public Library; Suzanne Flint, Child Development Specialist; Kathi Guerrero, El Dorado County First 5; Margaret Jerene, Alameda County First 5; Nina Lindsay, Oakland Public Library; and Lisa Regalla, Bay Area Discovery Museum

Project Evaluation: Engage R&D