

TOGETHER, LEARNING **MORE!**



Interactive Family Learning in California's Libraries

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Thank you to the California State Library
for making this project possible!



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GUIDING QUESTIONS

- ✧ Based on current research, what kinds of experiences matter for development in children ages 0-8?
- ✧ How does this research-base connect to library practice?
- ✧ What California library jurisdictions offer programs that could provide exemplars of evidence-based, developmentally-impactful work with young children?

PROJECT COMPONENTS

SURVEY

- ✧ 395 library staff; 79 jurisdictions
- ✧ focus on space, materials, programs, needs
- ✧ strengthening knowledge and skills of those providing programs as top need
- ✧ developmentally appropriate practices, trauma informed approaches, and cultural competency noted

PROJECT COMPONENTS

SURVEY

✧ recent research on executive functions, pro-social skills, theory of mind, and language development

ACADEMIC LITERATURE

✧ evidence-based mechanisms for promoting healthy development: play, language exchange, child-driven inquiry, and emotional awareness

✧ understanding of threats and remedies to development

PROJECT COMPONENTS

SURVEY

✧ 13 in-depth interviews with leaders from 10 jurisdictions

ACADEMIC LITERATURE

✧ insights from those interviews are woven throughout the report

INTERVIEWS

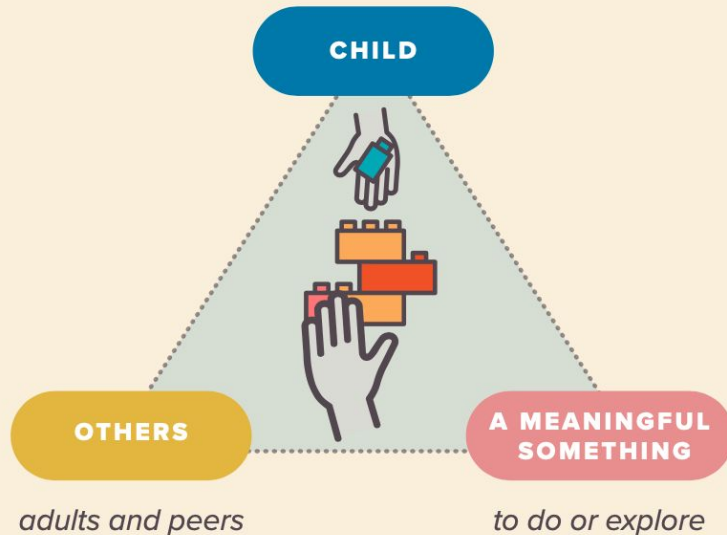
HOW LEARNING INTERACTIONS DEVELOP AS A CHILD GROWS

FROM DEVELOPMENTAL DYAD



Builds social bonds and language

TO LEARNING CONTEXT



Promotes thinking and agency

BABY



ELEMENTARY AGE



San José Public Library



El Dorado County Library



Oceanside Public Library



Contra Costa County Library

WHY INTERACTIVE LEARNING WORKS



Prompts thinking and questioning



Promotes communication and collaboration

COMPONENTS OF INTERACTIVE LEARNING

MEANINGFUL

PLAYFUL

SOCIAL

CREATIVE

PHYSICAL



Invites children to take the lead



Inspires exploration and experimentation



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YOUR QUESTIONS

KEY FINDINGS

LIBRARY SERVICES CAN PROMOTE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT BY FOCUSING ON INTERACTION

- ✧ Designing experiences that create meaningful moments
- ✧ Supporting caregivers to play and explore alongside children
- ✧ Enabled by physical space and social environment
- ✧ More than a place of transaction



Imperial County Free Library

HOW DOES YOUR SPACE...

- ✧ Inspire curiosity and inquiry?
- ✧ Provide safe welcome and respect?
- ✧ Communicate your culture of learning?



Rancho Cucamonga Public Library

KEY FINDINGS

ALLOW FOR A WIDE RANGE OF PLAY!

- ✧ Throughout elementary school years!
- ✧ Library staff guiding children's play and discovery
- ✧ Modeling for parents how to support child-directed learning and exploration
- ✧ Offering unique experiences or resources

PLAY!

Develops
cognitive,
social, and
emotional skills

Different kinds
of play
influence
development
in various ways

IMAGINARY PLAY



Creativity
Reasoning
Empathy

SOCIAL PLAY



Self-regulation
Pro-social skills
Language development

PHYSICAL PLAY



Fine motor skills
Scientific thinking
Language development

GAME PLAY



Executive functions
(e.g., memory and inhibition)
Reasoning
Creativity (when open-ended)

KEY FINDING

TRAINING FOR STAFF IS ESSENTIAL

- ✧ Focused on both child development and working with diverse families
- ✧ Awareness of trauma informed practice and implicit bias may strengthen asset-based parent engagement
- ✧ Diversity of staff need be prioritized!



Oceanside Public Library



Rancho Cucamonga Public Library



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KEY FINDING

PROMISING NEW TRENDS INCLUDE STEAM PROGRAMS, ONLINE OFFERINGS, AND FAMILY PLAY

- ✧ Try out new approaches! Build a growth mindset in staff to encourage innovations and flexibility
- ✧ Outcomes-based planning, informed by user feedback, will help to prioritize





Oceanside Public Library



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YOUR QUESTIONS

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