

GROWING READERS TOGETHER

Success Cycle

LOOK & LISTEN

- What's going on in your community?
- What questions about childcare & early learning options in your area do you or your patrons have?
- How do Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers use your library?

INNOVATE & INSPIRE

- What can you do right now?
- How can you leverage your expertise & passion in service to FFN caregivers?
- How can you model early learning best practices for FFNs?



EXPLORE & EXAMINE

You've got this!

- What is your library already doing to support early learning and FFN caregivers?
- What other community organizations are working with families and caregivers with young children?

DREAM & DISCOVER

Recognize your passion for early learning.

- What inspires you?
- What are your goals for supporting FFN caregivers and early learning at your library?
- What do you need to get there?

LOOK & LISTEN

- **Spark community conversations!** Talk with caregivers, community organizers, and co-workers about childcare and early learning.
- **Look beyond your library walls.** Where in your community do families & FFN caregivers gather? Look for both physical and virtual gathering places.
- **Understand your community.** What resources does your community have to support young families? Familiarize yourself with the early childhood landscape and local statistics.
- **Look again!** Dig into your library's stats and see where you've grown. Collect formal and informal opinions. Keep Exploring, Dreaming, and Innovating!

INNOVATE & INSPIRE

- **Experiment.** Look for quick wins and immediate impact to build motivation. Be open to the unexpected. Track your progress and don't be afraid to change course if things aren't working!
- **Spread the word!** Promote early learning beyond the library walls at natural gathering places & service locations. Activate your partnerships, find "community ambassadors" and encourage your library's staff to share your mission!
- **Inspire change.** Connect with FFN caregivers. Make early learning accessible, transparent, and intentional. Make every interaction meaningful!
- **Celebrate growth!** Honor your work, share your successes, and learn from your mistakes.

EXPLORE & EXAMINE

- **Look in your toolbox.** Take stock of your library's assets, existing relationships, as well as, your own personal knowledge and passion.
- **Build relationships.** Join your local Early Childhood Council. Get to know formal and informal caregivers and organizations that serve them.
- **Expand your expertise.** Look at what other libraries are doing successfully. Connect with your colleagues and professional networks. Consult early learning literature and publications. Prepare to be a knowledgeable advocate for quality early learning and care.

DREAM & DISCOVER

- **Imagine the possibilities!** Consider the library's physical space as well as programming and outreach. Re-imagine what you can do with your library's current assets and dare to dream about large scale changes.
- **Set clear goals.** Define short and long term goals that are manageable and measurable.
- **Advocate for early literacy!** Share your efforts with stakeholders in the community and in your own library. You never know where you might find a new partner.

