

ECRR2 webinar – May 4, 2011
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(These are my raw notes taken while I was viewing the webinar. I cannot guarantee their accuracy.)

Product scheduled to be released in June – now available for advance orders

ECRR program background

- Research based early literacy outreach education program for parents and caregivers
- Not intended to be a storytime program, though principles are successfully incorporated into storytimes
- Not intended for in-library, but has been successful for some
- Intended for people who do not visit their public library

Based on 5 core principles

- Parents are child's first and best teacher
- Reading is an essential life skill
- Learning to read begins at birth
- Play provides a wide range of benefits & opportunities
- Lifelong learning is a role of the public library

2 key factors of PLA ALSC partnership –

- Children are entering K w/o the skills needed to learn to read (Public libraries are in a unique position to serve as parents' first teacher to provide quality parent education to help parents)
- Public libraries are not always viewed as potential partners with early literacy programs and initiatives are being formed at local, state, or national levels (ECRR brings visibility and value)

ECRR's goal from the start was to change practice in our field around parent early literacy education

Few PLs were providing baby storytime, many kept parents out of preschool storytime; perception of parent education has changed

ECRR equips libraries to do competent parent education & to speak the language of early literacy

Evaluation & revision process

Evaluation task force – described charge and process

Revision has less educational jargon

Flexible

Interactive

Modular

More workshops and content
Workshops for parents and children

Elaine Meyers – consultant – overview of ECRR2 product
Manual with ECRR background info, findings from early literacy research, info about the 5 early literacy practices, details about 8 ECRR workshops, handouts & resource info

CD w/ PPT (includes embedded video clips) for each of the workshops, handouts, background info
Bookmarks, brochures, posters – each kits will include samples

Strategies for working with children move from 6 skills to 5 practices
Eight modular workshops can be customized & combined
Five practices – singing, talking, reading, writing, playing
Practices apply from birth-5
Two broad skill sets – decoding & comprehension
Slides come with talking points

Demonstration of sample slides and talking points:

Slide text:

“To become successful readers, children need to:

- Learn a code
- Understand its meaning”

Talked about alphabet as a code and reading as learning the code. What steps a child takes to learn the code.

Slide text:

“What is decoding?”

- Noticing print
- Knowing letter names and sounds
- Hearing the sounds that make up words”

Talking points include: Knowing letter names and sounds, and being able to decode the sounds within words, are the best predictors of reading success.

Five simple practices help children get ready to read.

Parents – use language you know best when working with your children

Talking – children learn about language by listening to parents talk and joining in the conversation. Children learn new information, new vocabulary, and other early literacy skills. Use lots of words with your children. Take turns in conversation with child.

Singing – songs are a natural way to learn about language – singing develops listening skills, slows down language so children can hear different sounds in the words (can demonstrate by saying and then singing the same words); clapping helps improve motor skills and helps children learn the sounds in words

Reading – single most important activity, develops vocabulary & comprehension, exposes child to rarer words, helps develop love of reading through shared reading, motivates a child to want to learn to read

Writing – with reading, helps children understand that print letters correspond to spoken words, increases hand/eye coordination, develop fine motor control

Playing – children learn a lot about language through different kinds of play, helps them think symbolically, learn that one thing can stand for another, that written words stand for real objects and experiences. Children talk while they play and practice putting thoughts into words; practice story having beginning, middle and end.

Importance of home environment in helping child get ready to read

Handout example – Getting Ready to Read at Home – ideas for how parents can make singing environments, playing environments, etc. without spending much money

Customizable slides at end of each slideshow – for local information e.g. music to borrow at the library, places to write, playing at the library, programs at the library, other ECRR workshops, contact info, how to access library resources online

Core time for public workshops = 45 minutes

Interactive experiences lengthen workshops

Unique/customized slides lengthen workshops

Can combine workshops to meet caregiver training requirements

Workshops – 5 public & 3 staff:

- Help Your Child Get Ready to Read – adults only intro workshop for parents/caregivers
- Fun for Parents and Children – encourages parents to work together with children on five practices; uses a picture book as the core of the workshop
- Fun with Letters – songs, alphabet books, games, activities, ages 2-5
- Fun with Words – practices to increase vocabulary & comprehension skills, ages 2-5
- Fun with Science & Math – working with children's natural curiosity, promotes nonfiction picture books & math/science activities
- Staff workshop – intro to ECRR2 – discusses research, 5 practices, code & comprehension, can work in large
- Physical Environment workshop for staff – library spaces for young children, to facilitate conversation about how your library space can support five practices

- Community Partners Help Every Child Get Ready to Read – library staff & community partners together, overview of workshop content plus prompts on how to work together to promote early literacy in the community

Research & implications – Susan Neumann

Prevention of Reading Difficulties report (1998) – importance of prevention over remediation in addressing reading problems – congressionally mandated

National Reading Panel Report (2000) – also congressionally mandated, isolated five predictive skills: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension

Nat'l Early Literacy Panel (2008) – Encouraging Early Readers report – focus

Skills associated with early literacy development

Phonological awareness – includes alliteration, rhyming, ability to hear beginning and ending sounds, segmenting, blending

Letter name knowledge – children should know all 26 letters before coming to kindergarten; know letters in their name

Concepts of print – conventions of print including space between words, that words convey the story, top to bottom, left to right, etc.

Vocabulary – children need supporting words, literary language, language of text, that text is representational

Comprehension – understanding what is being read

Phonological awareness and letter names are the strongest predictors of reading success in early years.

Vocabulary and comprehension will be strongest predictors of reading success and grade completion from grade 4 on. These skills don't show up as predictors of early reading achievement.

Children need repeated readings to get the vocabulary & comprehension benefits of storybooks. Also link the vocabulary in the book to other experiences. Storybooks work best in smaller groups.

Picture walk – similar to dialogic reading techniques, experiential techniques for having conversations around what you see in the book

PLA/ALSC presenting this as a turnkey product – do not need training to use it. Not planning to certify trainers. May offer webinars and other online resources and training.

New kits maps six skills to the five behaviors – information from 1st edition is still applicable.

ECRR2 emphasizes importance of vocabulary, background knowledge, and comprehension skills.

Kit pre-order

<http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=3404>

\$200 includes manual, CD, 100 bookmarks, 100 brochures, 1 poster

Product will begin shipping in June 2011.