

What is a Family Engagement Librarian?

3-Minute Lighting Talk

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Cross Timbers Library Collaborative

“Visions of Innovation and Collaboration”



**CROSS TIMBERS LIBRARY COLLABORATIVE
2020 CONFERENCE**

What is Family Engagement?

According to Lopez, Caspe, and Simpson (2017), "Family engagement is about family-child interactions" (p. 319).

Lopez, Caspe, and Simpson (2017) agree that the family is a primary socializing agent within the lives of children. Institutions also share in that socialization process, particularly the public library in creating, "opportunities for families to enrich their children's learning" (Lopez et al., 2017, p. 2).

References

Lopez, M. E., & Caspe, M. (2014). Family engagement in anywhere, anytime learning. *Family Involvement Network of Educators (FINE) Newsletter*, 6(3).

Schlak, T. (2018). Academic libraries and engagement: A critical contextualization of the library discourse on engagement. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 44(1), 133-139



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ASSOCIATION

- Family engagement is a **shared responsibility** among families, educators, and communities to support children's learning and development.
- Family engagement begins at birth and continues through young adulthood.

Reference

"Family Engagement", American Library Association, August 2, 2016. <http://www.ala.org/pla/initiatives/familyengagement>
(Accessed July 23, 2020) Document ID: 5e703a01-61e8-c4b4-9da1-8f404e5a9c8f

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- Family engagement is about developing the knowledge, attitudes, values, and behaviors that enable children to be motivated, enthusiastic, and successful learners.
- Partnerships with families and providing information, guidance, and opportunities for families to be active in their children's learning and development.
- Families support their children's learning when they believe that they are responsible for their children's education and feel confident that what they say and do makes a difference.
- Trusted community educators, including librarians, can encourage and inspire families to be engaged in their children's learning at any point in a child's lifetime.

What does the Research Say?



Research-based 5Rs Framework

- **Reaching out:** Libraries reach out to families, especially those in special circumstances, to promote the programs, collections, and services that are vital in a knowledge economy.
- **Raising up:** Libraries elevate family perspectives to develop and improve programs and services.
- **Reinforcing:** Libraries guide and model the specific actions that family members can take to support learning, from birth through young adulthood.
- **Relating:** Libraries offer opportunities for families to build peer-to-peer relationships and increase social networks.
- **Reimagining:** Libraries expand their community partnerships to reimagine ecologies of learning and how to support healthy children and families.

References

Learn more about The Five “Rs” and PLA’s family engagement initiatives by visiting <http://www.ala.org/pla/initiatives/familyengagement>.

*Weiss, Heather B., Margaret Caspe, M. Elena Lopez, and Lorette McWilliams. IDEABOOK: Libraries for Families. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Family Research Project, 2016.

What is a Family Engagement Librarian?





Gail Borden Public Library District

Position: Family Engagement Librarian

DEPARTMENT: KidSpace

JOB LEVEL: Librarian 1

STATUS: Exempt

ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS:

Reports to: Director of KidSpace

OVERVIEW:

Under the direction of the Director of KidSpace, this position is responsible for fostering and promoting services for families within the library locations. Provides in-depth and high level guidance and knowledge of trends in family services and performs a broad range of tasks including programming and answering reference and information requests.

Family Engagement Librarians Responsibilities

The state of Illinois Gail Borden public library district posted a position titled, "Family Engagement Librarian".

Assists in the design, implementation and evaluation of new services and programs for families that support the library's strategic plan, department objectives, and community demands throughout the district.

Collaborates with the Coordinator of Early Literacy Services, Coordinator of Grade School Services, and the Coordinator of Hispanic Family Services to create a vision for family services throughout the district

Facilitates family programming and services between the Main Library, branches, and Community Engagement Department

Administers the Battle of the Books program in conjunction with the Coordinator of Grade School Services

Plans and conducts family program series, Pop-up programs, and large events

Researches and hires outside presenters, authors and other performers for KidSpace programs including organizing room and equipment details

Serves as program host for KidSpace programs, as needed, including drafting and delivering welcome/introduction script Assists customers with reference, reading and information requests at the public service desks Plans, schedules and conducts class visits and library tours Follows technology trends and remains up-to-date with technological innovations.

Parent Resources



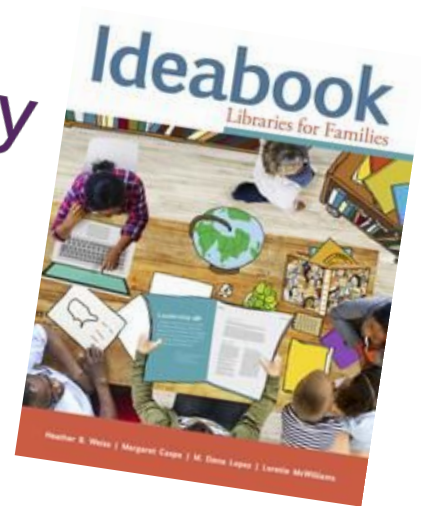
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Early literacy efforts like [Every Child Ready to Read@ your library® \(ECRR\)](#) support parents and children and create a springboard for new ideas and practices libraries can use to engage families even more successfully.

In July 2018, PLA released a **free promotional toolkit** designed to library workers and advocates raise awareness of family engagement through libraries.

This new resource can be **used to supplement libraries' marketing, fundraising, community relations and political advocacy work.**

The [Family Engagement Toolkit](#) was developed in partnership with ALA, as part of the [Libraries Transform](#) public awareness campaign. It offers both strategy and tactics for family engagement advocates, including message points, customizable graphics, promotional ideas, and program examples from [Ideabook: Libraries for Families](#). [Read the official announcement](#) for more information and instructions on accessing the toolkit.



Family Engagement Toolkit Introduction

The American Library Association (ALA) and the Public Library Association, a division of ALA, have partnered to create a free toolkit for raising awareness of how libraries promote family engagement in their communities.

The toolkit includes six new Because statement messages highlighting different aspects of family engagement; each statement is paired with key messages, supporting evidence, promotional ideas, and program ideas in action, as well as a variety of graphics for print and digital media.

An initiative of the American Library Association

Thank you !!!
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