

School Readiness, Early Learning, Early Literacy, and Collaborative Reading Initiatives

Examples of Collaborative Reading Initiatives

A collaborative reading initiative is an initiative in which a Local Workforce Development Board (Board) and at least one other entity work together to promote early language, literacy, and prereading development. The purpose of collaborative reading initiatives is to promote and provide language and literacy activities based on scientifically based research that supports the age-appropriate development of:

- language skills;
- vocabulary;
- phonological awareness (e.g., sentence segmentation, alliteration, rhyming);
- letter knowledge; and
- letter sounds.

Programs and entities appropriate for collaborative reading initiatives include, but are not limited to, the following:

Entities

- Center for Improving the Readiness of Children for Learning and Education (CIRCLE)
- Child care resource and referral agencies
- Colleges and universities
- Family Place Libraries/Libraries for the Future
- Parent resource centers for children
- Public schools
- Reading Is Fundamental

Programs

- Early Learning Opportunities Act grant projects
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Early Head Start/Head Start
- Early Reading First projects
- Even Start Family Literacy Program
- Parents as Teachers
- Reach Out and Read Texas
- Texas Early Education Model demonstration projects

Examples of Early Literacy, Early Learning, and Professional Development Activities

Examples of early literacy and early learning activities include:

- early literacy packets for mothers of newborns;
- early literacy resources for child care lending libraries that are directed at parents and teachers to help them extend a child's literacy experience;
- research-based curricula from the State Center's adopted list; and
- personal digital assistant tools.

Examples of professional development and training include:

- early literacy and language development training aligned with the state’s prekindergarten guidelines;
- mentoring on early literacy and language development based on scientifically based research practices and strategies for improving child performance in language and literacy;
- evaluating child performance in language and literacy in the classroom; and
- basic class structure that encourages development of language and literacy.

Resources on the Web

The following Web sites provide information and resources about research-based reading instruction and curricula that are aligned with the state’s prekindergarten guidelines:

CIRCLE

<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/circle>

Reading First Initiative

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/reading/readingfirst/readingfirst.html>

Impacting Student Achievement Through the Language and Literacy Prekindergarten Guidelines: A Self-Assessment Tool, a publication from the Texas Education Agency

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/reading/products/impactstudent.pdf>