

# Storytime Kits for Daycares and Play Groups: How Pikes Peak Library District is Supporting Parents in Early Literacy



The SPELL blueprint ([s.Irs.org/blueprint](http://s.Irs.org/blueprint)) was created to assist library staff in their effort to support caregivers in practicing early literacy techniques with their children. In November 2014, eight libraries in Colorado were selected to implement the blueprint in their communities. Each library created a programming prototype that guided the library in collaborating with community partners, and providing outreach to low income and high need communities. One of the SPELL libraries was Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD), located in the city of Colorado Springs. Read on to learn about its prototype.

## Community Profile - Colorado Springs, Colorado

*Population:* 456,468  
*Racial Makeup:* 71% White, 16% Latino/a, 6% African American, 5% Two or More Races  
*K-12 % Minority:* 48%  
*Median Income:* \$54,228  
*% Below Poverty Line:* 14%

## Partners

Princeton Academy: Preschool and childcare center.  
Parenting Matters: An organization that supports parenting practices and promotes the health and optimal development of children.

## Prototype

Early literacy kits for childcare teachers that included books, manipulatives, and early literacy tips called "Brain Building Tips," which explained why particular activities help promote literacy in young children.

Early literacy trainings for childcare teachers using Every Child Ready to Read®.

Storytimes at the childcare center.

Play group visits where librarians modeled and discussed early literacy activities.

This program introduces us to new books and songs. Also, [it] gives us more chances to interact with other children.

-Parent

I feel so invested in the growth and development of the children, and I think that is an important bond that we share with the caregivers.

- Children's Librarian

## Project Resources

Funding: \$32,448 (28% federal grant, 72% Pikes Peak Library District)

Purchases included:

- 2,096 children's books
- 192 manipulatives
- 17 promotional materials
- 30 informational materials

## Activities

- 15 playgroup visits
- 14 childcare classroom visits
- 3 parent nights at the childcare
- 3 teacher trainings
- 4 hours of professional development credit for childcare teachers
- 217 caregivers participated
- 410 children participated

## Outcomes

After participating in SPELL,

- more than 9 in 10 parent survey respondents are more confident helping their child(ren) be ready to read in kindergarten,
- more than 3 in 4 have a regular routine for reading books, and
- more than 7 in 10 agree they know how children learn to read.

More details about this prototype are available at [spellproject.weebly.com/research](http://spellproject.weebly.com/research).