

# Kits to Daycares: How Pueblo City-County 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 Pueblo City-County Library District, located on the Front Range of Colorado. Read on to learn about its prototype.

## Community Profile - Pueblo, Colorado

*Population (County):* 160,757  
*Racial Makeup:* 53% White, 42% Latino/a, 2% African American, and 3% two or more races  
*K-12 % Minority:* 63%  
*Median Income:* \$29,650  
*% Below Poverty Line:* 18%

## Partners

Three preschool/childcare centers: Thatcher Learning Center, Trinity Lutheran Early Learning Center, and Kinderkirk Preschool. One elementary school: Benjamin Franklin, a public school serving Pre-K through 5th grade.

## Prototype

Library staff created themed storytime kits that included books, manipulatives, games, and a binder filled with early literacy tips and activities for use at the childcare centers.

Library staff provided Every Child Ready to Read® and storytime training to representatives from all four of the participating partners.

Library staff offered weekly storytimes at childcare centers as well as “Parent Nights” during pickup time to provide early literacy activities and share library information with parents.

Every visit is a success when a child is happy.  
- Children’s Librarian

The children love the visits each month. The caregivers tell me that the children look forward to my visit and what kit I am going to leave with them.  
- Children’s Librarian

## Project Resources

Funding: \$18,313 (49% federal grant, 51% Pueblo City-County Library District)

Purchases included:

- 409 children’s books
- 137 games
- 78 manipulatives
- 1,678 promotional materials
- 715 informational materials
- 12 storytime kits

## Activities

30 storytimes at childcare centers  
25 parent nights at childcare centers  
1 onsite and 29 offsite early literacy consultation with parents  
218 caregivers participated  
1,387 children participated

## Outcomes

After participating in SPELL, more than 9 in 10 parent survey respondents:

- are more committed to maintaining a regular reading routine with their child(ren),
- know more about what everyday activities they can do to help their child(ren), and
- know more about the activities the library offers for families with young children.

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