



July 1, 2013

Early Learning with Families @ Your Library – ELF 2.0
USING CHILD DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE TO ENHANCE LIBRARY SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

Dear Public Library Directors,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the statewide Early Learning with Families (ELF 2.0) Initiative for 2013/14. This LSTA supported initiative is envisioned as the next phase in transforming how libraries serve babies, toddlers, preschoolers, their parents, and childcare providers. It is intended to enhance current library services by basing them on sound child development practices as well as current early learning and brain development research. It will include opportunities for professional development, partnership building, and resource sharing.

In the first year of this ELF 2.0 initiative we will:

- Provide a professional development pre-conference at CLA in Long Beach (beginning at 5:00PM Friday evening November 1 and running until 11:30AM Sunday morning November 3). All California libraries are invited to apply (guidelines and application will be available on the State Library website starting July 24).
- Create and disseminate online, developmentally appropriate resources, tools and templates to support early learning library practices.
- Expand opportunities for creative community collaborations and partnerships.
- Create resources and guidelines regarding the wise use of technology with young children and their families.
- Offer small, targeted six-month early learning grants – applications for which will be made available November 2013.
- Offer three regional ELF 2.0 networking meetings in Spring 2014 to facilitate shared learning and resources between libraries offering early learning services.
- Offer 6 free professional development webinars during Spring 2014 on various topics related to child development and library services for young children and their caregivers.

Only the CLA pre-conference and targeted grant portions of this initiative will require an application to participate. The pre-conference training is designed for those libraries that have staff needing a better understanding of basic child development theory and practice. The pre-conference will provide strategies for utilizing this knowledge to inform library service provision for young children and their families. All other aspects of this statewide initiative will be made available free of charge to all California libraries, with information shared via the new ELF 2.0 website, Pinterest and YouTube accounts.

A conference call has been scheduled for July 29, 2013 to answer any questions you or your staff may have regarding this initiative and the Early Learning Pre-Conference application. Please contact Suzanne Flint at **916-651-9796** or suzanne.flint@library.ca.gov for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Gerry Maginnity
Acting State Librarian of California