



## **FAST FACTS**

### **Babies, Children, and Families**

- Public libraries are the only free early learning space available to everyone.
- Programs and resource help children and caregivers socialize and learn important skills needed for Kindergarten.
- Librarians help families find books, and material tailored to a child's interest.
- Libraries provide computers and quality educational software. In rural communities many families do not have computers at home.
- It is ok for children to make noise in a library. It is a space for everyone, including babies.

### **Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers**

- Libraries provide primary caregivers a chance to interact with other children and adults through story times, Play & Learn groups, and activities. These activities help to reduce isolation and increase socialization.
- Librarian's can help children build early literacy skills. Early literacy skills are needed before a child formally learns how to read.

### **Child Care Professionals and Teachers**

- Libraries provide outreach activities and support to child care centers and teachers. Many libraries take books and activities to centers through mobile services.
- Rural libraries serve as community hubs and are often seen as a safe place for immigrants and refugees, isolated, and other at-risk populations to obtain information. This allows librarians to provide referrals and connections to other essential services.
- STARS training are available at several partner libraries, often for little or no cost.
- Librarians are available to help plan and consult with projects and lesson plans.

### **Facts about the Early Learning Public Library Partnership**

- 27 Partner Library Systems across the state, including rural, urban, large and small library systems.
- 330+ library branches, 14 bookmobiles in Washington State.
- Annually over 20 million children's materials are checked out of public libraries.
- In 2009 over 43-million people visited libraries in Washington State.
- Many libraries have material in Spanish, Chinese, Russian, etc. This helps to reinforce early literacy and family bonding— a parent is a child's first and best teacher, no matter their home language.

### **Early Learning Public Library Partnership Members**

- Asotin County Library
- Everett Public Library
- Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
- Jefferson County Rural Library District
- King County Library System
- Kitsap Regional Library
- Longview Public Library
- Mid-Columbia Library System
- Mount Vernon City Library
- North Central Regional Library
- Orcas Island Library District
- Pierce County Library System
- Port Townsend Public Library
- Puyallup Public Library
- San Juan Island Library District
- Seattle Public Library
- Sedro-Woolley Public Library
- Sno-Isle Libraries
- Spokane County Library District
- Spokane Public Library
- Stevens County Rural Library District
- Timberland Regional Library
- Walla Walla County Rural Library District
- Washington State Library
- Whatcom County Library System
- Whitman County Library
- Yakima Valley Libraries

### **VISION**

Public libraries are full, essential partners in the early learning movement in Washington State.

### **MISSION**

The Early Learning Public Library Partnership strengthens the ability of public libraries to fully participate in the advancement of early learning in Washington.

### **GOALS**

1. The public libraries are recognized by early learning professionals, decision makers and the public for their work in early learning
2. Public libraries are members of local and statewide early learning coalitions throughout Washington State.
3. Public libraries continue to grow resources for early learning services and influence in the Washington State Early Learning Community.