6 by 6
Ready to Read
ANNUAL REPORT
6/1/13 - 5/31/14
www.kslib.info
OVERVIEW

Children get ready to read long before they start school.

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.

Here are six skills children should experience before their sixth birthday.

Have Fun with Books (print motivation)

Talk, Talk, Talk (vocabulary)

Take Time To Rhyme, Sing and Play Word Games (phonological awareness)

Notice Print All Around You (print awareness)

Look for Letters Everywhere (letter knowledge)

Tell Stories about Everything (narrative skills)

6 by 6 supports public libraries across Kansas in sharing these early literacy ideas and activities with their constituents.
To date, 152 kits have been created, including 77 large, 48 medium and 27 small. Kits are available to all Kansas libraries to use and to check out to their patrons. New kit themes continue to be added in the medium and small categories.

**EARLY LITERACY ACTIVITY KITS**

**Kits are available in three sizes**

**Large**: Early Literacy Activity Kits and are based on high-quality children’s books. They contain at least one activity from each of the six key skill areas of early literacy. Libraries choose to use all or part of the activities in the library, or may loan them to local child care programs.

*Large Kit Titles*

- Alphabet Under Construction
- Blue Sea
- Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom
- Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type
- Little Cloud
- Mushroom in the Rain
- Put It On The List
- Seven Blind Mice
- Snowballs
- Tip, Tip, Dig, Dig
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar

**Medium**: Circle Storytime Kits and are intended to give librarians and child care providers all the books and resources they need to conduct storytimes on a variety of themes.

**Small**: Storypack Backpacks contain one book and a related activity, and include additional early literacy activity ideas. They are intended for families to check out. Local libraries may borrow them through interlibrary loan to lend to patrons.

**Early Literacy Training for Kansans**

- 28 training sessions
- 226 librarians
- 136 child care workers
- 62 parents
State Library of Kansas offered 6 by 6 resources and activities for librarians and child care providers to use with the selected title, *Dog’s Colorful Day*.

Through a partnership with the Kansas Pediatric Foundation, the State Library staff continues to implement a project, Checkup and Check Out: For Kansas Kids. With its Turn A Page, Touch A Mind program, the Pediatric Foundation works statewide to allow doctors to give out reading advice and books at well-child checkups for children six months through five years. In the pilot project, participating physicians also gave out flyers promoting the 6 by 6 skills and local library visits. The State Library provided local libraries with funds so that librarians gave additional books to children who came in to the library at their doctors’ recommendations.

**Participating Communities**

- Baldwin
- Chanute
- Leavenworth
- Lenexa/Johnson County
- Manhattan
- Moundridge
- Newton
- Salina
- Smith Center
- Ulysses/Grant County
- WaKeeney
- Wichita
KU EVALUATION

The State Library of Kansas contracted with the University of Kansas to conduct an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of 6 by 6 in child care settings. A total of seven libraries, 102 children and 20 child care programs were enrolled in the study.

STUDY DESIGN AND FINDINGS

The study compared two groups of child care providers and children. All child care providers attended brief meetings at their local public libraries where they learned about 6 by 6. All attendees left with printed information that described 6 by 6 and gave practical tips on how to use 6 by 6.

After the meeting, approximately half of the childcare providers were randomly assigned to a group that received no further contact from library staff. The remaining child care providers received three or four visits from library staff. Staff demonstrated age-appropriate literacy activities and provided child care sites with books and educational activities to use during the study.

Researchers found that:

• Inviting small groups of child care givers in to the library for a brief 6 by 6 training session presented by library staff is an effective way to give early literacy information to community members.

• A short provider training at the library is as effective as 3-4 teaching outreach visits to child care programs. Researchers recommend “that local libraries in Kansas continue to offer 6 by 6 introductory meetings to small groups of child care providers in their areas.”

• Six months after attending meetings at their libraries, child care providers reported using the library more often, including checking out materials for use with children in their care.

• There was an increase in children’s reading readiness approximately two months after their caregivers were introduced to 6 by 6. Children continued to show gains when assessed four months later.

Staff at the following libraries recruited child care programs to participate in the study. They also trained child care providers in 6 by 6.

Coffey County Library
Kansas City, Kansas Public Library
Osage City Public Library
Ottawa Library
LIBRARY STAFF COMMENTS ON 6 BY 6

Early Literacy Activity Kits

“The kit inspires me and enriches my story time.”

“It is really great to be able to get these kits to use with the kids. It gives me many more ways to work with them on reading skills, and to help in communicating what skills are needed to parents.”

“Loved the kit—it stimulated lots of interaction and activity among the children and their caregivers. I heard children counting, sorting by color, sorting by category of foods, etc. I really felt this kit was great for our library.”

“I am very grateful to be able to borrow these kits. The quality is excellent and it is a huge savings to libraries.”

Checkup and Check Out

“This is a beneficial program that is bringing new people to visit our library. It’s a program that makes a difference with minimal cost and a minimal amount of work.”

“Some neat observations: One family got a library card and checked out books, another family had never been to our library so was fun to visit with them, the children are so excited to choose books—it has been fun.”

“This is such a great way to give people that extra incentive to make a stop at the library at the top of their list.”

“One mom said her child was crying from her shots (at the doctor’s office) and when she said, ‘We need to stop at the library for a free book,’ the girl stopped (crying) and smiled.”
PARTNERS

Ashley Clinic, Chanute
Baldwin City Library
Central Kansas Library System
Chanute Public Library
Child Care Aware of Kansas
Cottonwood Pediatrics, Newton
Family Medicine of Baldwin City
GraceMed Guild, Wichita
GraceMed Health Clinics, Wichita
Grant County Library
Heartland Primary Care, Lenexa
Johnson County Library
Leavenworth Public Library
Manhattan Public Library
Moundridge Public Library
Mowery Clinic, Salina
Newton Public Library
North Central Kansas Libraries System
Northeast Kansas Library System
NorthWest Kansas Library System
Office of Claudia McAllaster, MD, Leavenworth
Office of Vernon A. Mills, MD, Leavenworth
Partners in Family Care, Moundridge
Pediatric Associates of Manhattan
Salina Family Healthcare Center
Salina Pediatric Care
Salina Public Library
Salina Regional Health Center
Smith Center Public Library
Smith County Family Practice
South Central Kansas Library System
Southeast Kansas Library System
Southwest Kansas Library System
Stonecreek Family Physicians, Manhattan
Success By 6 of Douglas County/Strengthening Families Network
Turn a Page, Touch a Mind; Kansas Pediatric Foundation
Ulysses Family Physicians
University of Kansas, Center for Research Methods & Data Analysis
University of Kansas, Institute for Educational Research and Public Service
WaKeeney Family Care Center
WaKeeney Public Library
Wichita Public Library

Public libraries throughout the state, which provide early literacy information and activities in their communities.

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