Librarians and DAP Early Childhood Programs Powerful Strategies for Growing Young Readers

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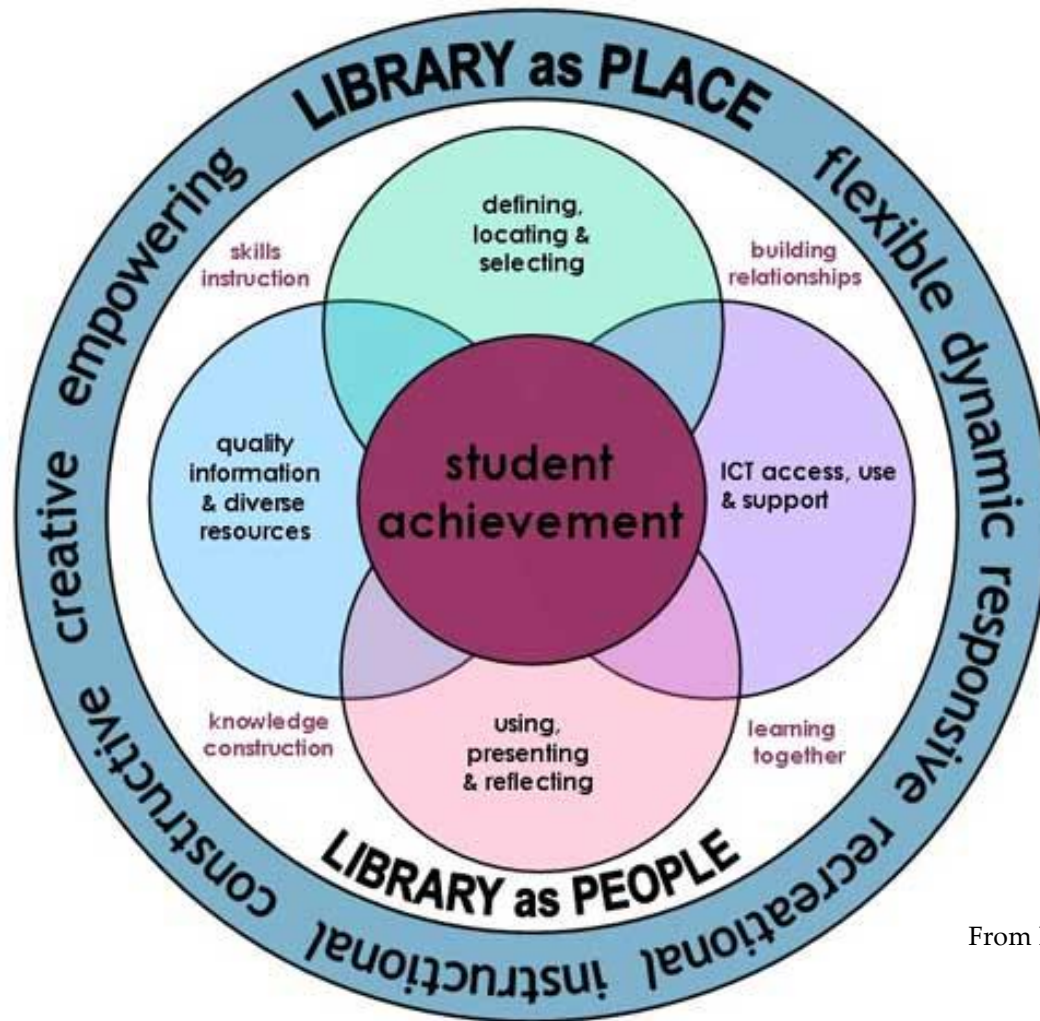Morgridge College of Education

University of Denver

Introduction

- Department Chair and Associate Professor in Library and Information Science
- Started out as an elementary school librarian in Texas
- Taught at Kent State U. then DU
- We launched first Early Childhood Librarianship program in the U.S.
- Colorado is fabulous state for early literacy work

Overview of Content

1. Librarians, their skills, and their work.
2. Creating a classroom materials collection management plan.
3. Examples of early literacy efforts in libraries.
4. Partnering with libraries.

What is a library?

From National Library of New Zealand

The Librarian's Principles

1. Provide and encourage access to information for lifelong learning and enjoyment.

2. Know the needs of the community and individuals and be responsive to those needs.

The Librarian's Principles

3. Be a good steward of public funds by collecting high quality materials and providing engaging experiences.

4. Organized information about the collection is essential for easy access.

The Context

POLL QUESTION 1!

Not Just About Books!

- Games
- Activities
- Apps
- Software
- Toys
- Space
- Furnishings

AND...

- What am I supposed to do with these things when I have them?

NAEYC Survey

- Over 50% of early childhood educators who attended the PDI said that they did not have a plan for acquiring children's books or literacy related resources.

This is Who We (Librarians) Are!

- How do librarians develop and maintain a collection?

They have a plan!

A Plan?

- Commonly called "Collection Development Plan" or Policy
  - Example: http://cityofpasadena.net/library/about_the_library/collection_development_policy/

- A guiding as well as operational document

Essential Ingredients

- Guiding statements of organization
- Knowledge of environment of materials
- Knowledge of community
- Mindset of considering the future, the present, and the past

How do Librarians Select Materials?

o Assessing the environment CONSTANTLY.

o Using criteria that are appropriate to the library's

- Goals
- Community
- Individuals
- Budget
- Practices

Roskos, Lenhart, and Noll Framework

Roskos, K.A., Lenhart, L.S., and Noll, B.L. (2012). *Early Literacy Materials Selector (ELMS): A Tool for Review of Early Literacy Program Materials.* Corwin, a Sage Company.

- Identify the uses that are important to your school
  - Assessment
  - Early literacy
  - STEM
  - Teacher materials
  - Student materials
  - Home-school materials
  - Professional development materials
  - Etc.

- Define curricular domains.
- Define criteria for evaluating guidance to teachers for use of content.

For example:

- Oral language guidance
  - Clear procedures for shared reading before, during, and after reading

Other possible domains

- Vocabulary
- Phonological awareness
- Alphabet letter knowledge
- Print knowledge

Knowing What Guides Your Organization

For example
- Learning outcomes
- Using budget wisely
- Serving a particular population

Knowing Your Community

For example

- Children's cognitive and physical abilities
- Characteristics of caregivers
- Demographics of service area
- Staff characteristics

Knowing What You Already Have

- Difference between a list and a catalog.
- Why we should know what we already have.

- Considerations
  - Who is responsible
  - When will it be done
  - Types of items to include
  - Features of the items to record
  - Sustainability and evaluation

How Do Librarians Do It?

- Depends upon size of library
- Generally, someone or team with expertise in cataloging according to standards in the library industry
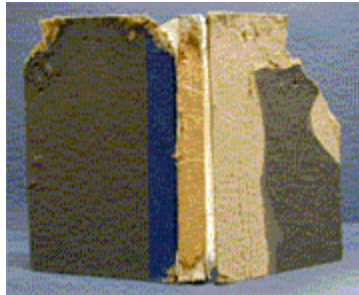- May hire an external firm to do some or all

When to Do It

- Depends upon the Who
- Slow times (I know, I know…)
- Yearly audit
- In phases

Description of Items

- Based upon (for example)
  - The traditional: author, title, subject
  - Format
  - Connections to other items
  - Uses
  - Importance
  - Source
  - Age of publication
  - Condition

Weeding

- ## Physical condition

- ## Content
  - o "There are 48 states in the United States."
  - o Problematic or offensive

Knowing What is Available for Acquiring

- Finding information
  - Large body of research indicates that, no matter the situation, people ask those they trust, whether the one they trust is knowledgeable of the topic or not.

How Do Librarians Find New Materials?

- Professional resources
- Publishers and distributors
- Conferences
- Blogs
- Mass media
- Patrons of library; children and families

Professional Resources

- Announcements and Reviews
  - *Publishers' Weekly*
  - *Booklist*
  - *Choice* (for older readers and students)
  - *Kirkus Reviews*
- Award Winners
  - Caldecott
  - Children's Book Council
  - State and national groups

How Do Librarians Evaluate Materials?

- See "Collection Development Plan"
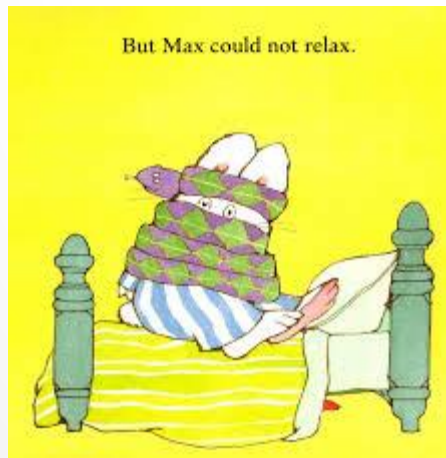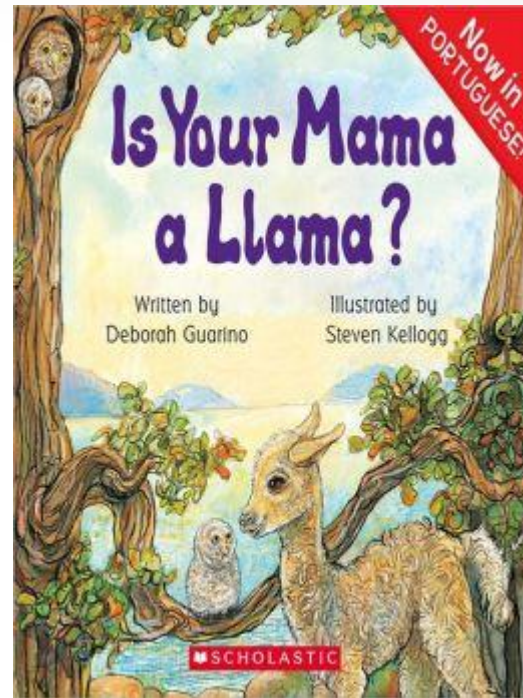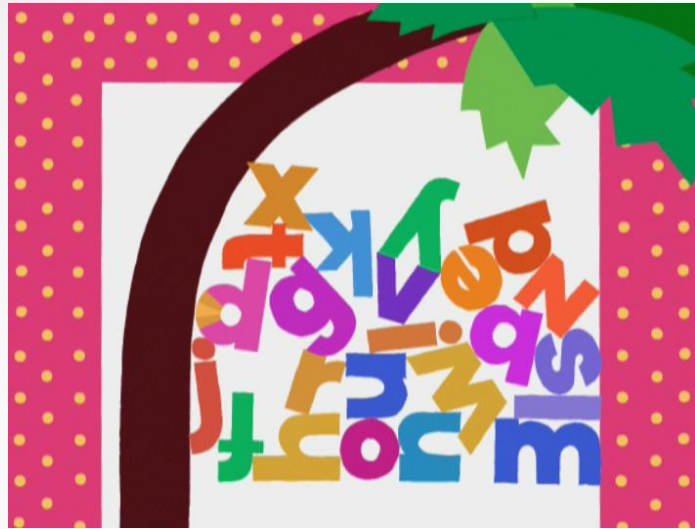 - Established criteria for evaluating materials

Evaluating Materials for Your Needs

- Consider
  - Languages
  - Skill levels
  - Curriculum
  - Uses
  - Quality

POLL Question 2!

Evaluating Materials for Your Needs

- ## Identify criteria for quality
  - Illustrations
    - Appropriateness for audience and topic
    - Engaging
    - Connection to text or storyline
    - Familiarity
    - Accuracy
    - Complexity
    - Appeal

Is Your Mama a Llama?

Written by
Deborah Guarino

Illustrated by
Steven Kellogg

Now in PORTUGUESE!

SCHOLASTIC

But Max could not relax.

Evaluating Materials

- Identify criteria for quality
  - Flow of storyline
  - Relevancy to population and intended use
  - Use of clear, natural language
  - Likely to keep child's attention

Evaluating Materials

- Identify criteria for quality, cont'd.
  - Support development of early literacy skills
  - Sturdiness
  - Interactive
  - Easy to manipulate
  - Offer possibilities for related activities

POLL QUESTION 3!

How libraries throughout the country support early literacy and early childhood education.

- Professional associations
  - American Library Association and Divisions
    - Association of Library Services to Children
    - Public Libraries Association
    - American Association of School Libraries

- Tools and frameworks
  - *Every Child Ready to Read* http://everychildreadytoread.org/
  - Emphasis is on helping parents and caregivers support development of early literacy skills
    - Talking
    - Writing
    - Reading
    - Playing
    - Singing

How libraries throughout the country support early literacy and early childhood education.

- Family Place Libraries
  - http://www.familyplacelibraries.org
- Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy
  - www.clel.org
  - www.StoryBlocks.org

http://www.storyblocks.org/

How to take advantage of the efforts of libraries and the unique contributions of libraries to early literacy.

- Ask for help with
  - Staff training
  - Caregiver training
  - Evaluating your collection
  - Visiting story-times
  - Technology

How to take advantage of the efforts of libraries and the unique contributions of libraries to early literacy.

- Ask the library to provide a community analysis
- Ask about dedicated use of part of the collection
- Ask for help with bulletin boards and displays related to books and early literacy

- Cosponsor a speaker, author, or event
- Attend staff training sessions together
- Advocate together
- Write a grant proposal together: www.imls.gov

Contact Information

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