

Ready 2 Read Project Update

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We designed and launched the survey, which is the first step to obtain a bin of books. Libraries may take the survey through March to qualify for a bin. As of March 7, 2011, 20 libraries are interested in receiving bins. If 20 libraries eventually receive a bin, 65 of Montana's approximately 90 public and tribal libraries will have received a minimum of two early childhood trainings and now offer early childhood programming (for kiddos 0 -3) in their libraries.

A survey is being designed (and will be released this week) to be distributed to libraries that received a bin of books at last year's Montana Library Association conference. The survey measures the effectiveness of the program by asking participants to consider what the Ready 2 Read program has offered their libraries and patrons. Additionally, these librarians will be asked what they would like to see next from the Ready 2 Read program.

A long-term plan is in development with input from librarians who are "Ready 2 Read" libraries.

Multiple online trainings are in development to help libraries keep their skills fresh and to learn new things. Topics will range from "Launch Your Own Books & Babies Program" to "Becoming a Family-Friendly Library."

We were invited to submit a proposal to the First Interstate BancSystem Foundation. The proposal will ask to fund both capacity-building projects, such as training a statewide coalition of librarians to be early literacy advocates and trainers themselves, and tangible items, such as brochures and more. This proposal is in process.

A new partnership with Montana PBS was launched. This program, in the first year, will provide "library corners" to three Montana public libraries. These corners will provide each recipient library with a 8X10 rug, some banners, and computer software for children's computers. Additionally, Montana PBS is planning to do a series of Super Why! Reading Camps, which have been proven to significantly boost early literacy skills, for low-income preschoolers in libraries around the state during Summer 2011. Sara Groves also attended a conference in Washington, DC that reviewed the most effective messaging and methods to reach low-income families, one of our target groups for Ready 2 Read.

The Montana State Library was invited to participate with other state agencies such as the Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Office of Public Instruction at this year's School Readiness Summit. It is our first invite to participate at this annual event and is representative of Montana libraries being brought to the table for discussions on early childhood learning.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks received an Environmental Protection Agency grant with the Montana State Library as a partner to promote the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild trunks with training and materials on Montana's reservations. FWP and MSL will work with a Native American cultural specialist to adapt the

trunk contents for each tribe. A Ready 2 Read Goes Wild bin will be left with the public or tribal library for use on the reservation by the Head Start teachers and other childcare providers (and the library).

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks featured the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild program in their Outdoor Minute report, which is distributed to television stations statewide. The story featured the Drummond School & Community Library as well as the Easy Helena branch of the Lewis & Clark Public Library. MT FWP would like to feature the program in their magazine, *Montana Outdoors*, as well.