With generous funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP) is delighted to partner with the Public Library Association (PLA) on a new project to explore family engagement in children’s learning through libraries. For families, family engagement is about the knowledge, attitudes, values, and behaviors that enable children to be motivated, enthusiastic, and successful learners. For schools and libraries, family engagement means respectful partnerships that offer the information, guidance, and opportunities for families to be active in their children’s learning and development.

Key Activities:
- Documentation of promising family engagement practices in public libraries through surveys and site visits;
- Creation of a learning community, a group of librarians and families who meet regularly to share ideas and practices that set children and families on a pathway to use libraries for lifelong learning; and
- Development of an IDEABOOK that libraries can use to encourage family participation in children’s learning.

HFRP Resources on Family Engagement in Public Libraries

**Family Engagement in Anywhere, Anytime Learning**
Children spend only 20% of their waking time in formal classroom education, which leaves 80% of their time for exploring and enhancing learning interests outside the classroom. This report highlights the research behind how public libraries, as one of several nonschool supports, are spaces where families can access rich digital and hands-on activities to steer children’s learning and instill in them the love and skills for learning that last a lifetime.

**Lessons from Museums and Libraries: Five Ways to Address Families’ Digital Learning Needs**
Museums and libraries are increasing their offerings for families in support of such vital 21st-century learning skills as problem solving, digital media literacy, and creativity. Learn how these institutions play important roles in addressing our children’s digital learning needs.

**Libraries Helping to Close the Opportunity Gap: Maryland Library Partnership**
Through innovative and engaging family activities, the Maryland Library Partnership is playing a crucial community role by promoting learning anywhere, anytime, and reaching out to parents to help them with their children’s learning, to improve literacy, and to close the vocabulary gap between learners from low-income backgrounds and their peers.

**Something Borrowed, Something New: Libraries as Learning Hubs**
Today’s library is a modern, evolving community space of education and support for the entire family. Find out more about how libraries function as spaces of creativity, address educational achievement gaps, respond to families’ and communities’ changing needs, connect people to resources, and serve as education brokers.

Stay Connected!
- Find these resources and more at www.hfrp.org/libraries
- Share your ideas with us by emailing us at fine@gse.harvard.edu.
- Subscribe to our *FINE Newsletter* to receive the newest and best family involvement research and resources from HFRP and field leaders. Join today at www.hfrp.org/subscribe
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- Like our Facebook page at HarvardFamilyResearchProject