



Early Learning Public Library Partnership

Brandi Gates, MLIS 2018

What is the ELPLP?

In 2007, a group of Washington State Library Directors established the Early Learning Public Library Partnership (ELPLP). The organization set out to “strengthen the ability of public libraries to fully participate in the advancement of early learning in Washington State” (Mission) and to ensure that “Public Libraries are full, essential partners in the early learning movement in Washington” (Vision).

What was the need?

The ELPLP worked to ensure that public libraries had a voice in early learning policy and strategy. The organization also worked to improve early learning services and resources. Over the years the ELPLP saw many successes and brought awareness to the important role public libraries play in early learning. However, little was done to document these efforts, and what information was available was not easily accessible. The organization needed better documentation of the work they completed and for it to be in an easily accessible location.

The Project

My main goal was to document the history of the ELPLP. To do this, I interviewed people who were involved in the organization during the beginning, including members of the original steering committee. I also gathered organizational documents such as contracts, meeting notes, and workplans. I digitized many of these documents and put everything together in a single location so it can be valuable to other organizations interested in the roles public libraries play in early learning.

Next Steps

The ELPLP is unique to Washington. Ideally this project can be used as a point of reference for other states who are interested in forming a similar partnership.