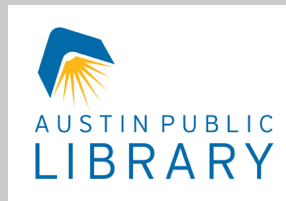


Early Childhood Literacy Story Time

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Sponsors: Austin Public Library and LifeWorks Austin

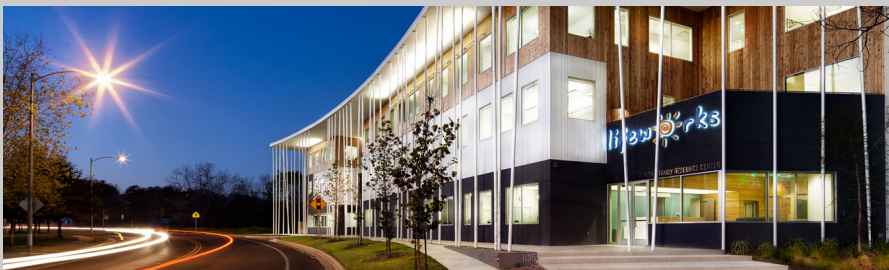


LifeWorks Austin and Austin Public Library

LifeWorks is a nonprofit organization in Austin, TX that provides resources for young parents. These individuals are in a variety of circumstances, but the common trait is that they are all parenting children at a young age.

The Young Fathers Program focuses on providing services and education for young fathers or young men that identify with the fatherhood role. For example, individuals raising younger siblings can also participate.

The Austin Public Library agreed to sponsor this program that would result in the creation of a story time program that modeled effective in-home story time practices that promote early childhood literacy.



Early Childhood Literacy

Early literacy refers to the foundational elements that children learn about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Parents and caregivers are a child's first facilitators and they have the opportunity to support the development of early literacy skills through daily interactions.

Early literacy skills include: print motivation, vocabulary, print awareness, letter knowledge, narrative skills, and phonological awareness. Each skill addresses an aspect of reading that will ultimately lead to the child enjoying reading.

Story Time

One story time session was conducted on the LifeWorks campus for the Young Fathers Program. The story time was 'monster' themed and consisted of three stories about monsters, 8 songs, and a monster craft. Three early childhood literacy strategies were highlighted. The participants were also provided with library card applications, Austin Public Library story time schedules, and early childhood literacy tip sheets to take home.



How Did It Go?

24 individuals participated in the story time session. Positive feedback included the following:

"I see how much the kids liked when you read in different voices!"

"This really made me think I can read to my kids"

Multiple participants said they would be attending future story times at the library because of their positive experience.

What's Next?

A follow-up story time is being planned at the Cepeda branch of the Austin Public Library. This will provide an opportunity for the LifeWorks participants to experience a library storytime near their homes. Hopefully a comfort level with the library will be achieved that encourages future library visits.

