Librarians in Laundromats: Creating Connections to Model Early Literacy and Mathematical Skills for Family Use in Everyday Life

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Chipublib.org -> EVENTS -> search “STEAM”
Every Child Ready to Read 2

5 things to do every day that help your child learn

- Talk (Hablamos)
- Sing (Cantamos)
- Read (Leemos)
- Write (Escribimos)
- Play (Jugamos)
Laundromat Locations: September 2019-December 2019 Evaluation Sites

Chipublib.org Events -> Search: “Laundromat Story Time”
STEAM and Early Literacy in Laundromats

- There are so many great learning opportunities in the Laundromat.
- You can talk, sing, read, write, and play about:
  - Shapes – the building, clothes, anything you see
  - Colors – clothes and equipment or anything else
  - Patterns - clothes
  - Numbers – money and time on machines
  - Bubbles and water - what’s happening?
  - ABCs- signs
  - Sound – loud and quiet
Math Books – Young Readers

- ¡Números, Baby!
- Bear in a Square
- Pete the Cat
- Count the Monkeys
- 12 Lucky Animals
- Shape by Shape
Laundromats and Literacy

• All of our programs are meant to model early literacy components
  • Books, songs, fingerplays, and games with parental asides
  • Talk, Sing, Read, Write, Play
    • Math
      • Talk: how many of x do we see?/what shapes do we see?/how many of those shapes?/measuring soap
      • Sing: 5 green and speckled frongs/1, 2 buckle my shoe/ If you’re happy and you know it/ 5 little bubbles
      • Read: Read a Math book/read the signs in the laundromat/Talk about ABCs and the letters you see
      • Write: have child draw and scribble shapes, numbers, letters
      • Play: Play Ispy with shapes, patterns, numbers and letters/do a scavenger hunt and hide one pair of a sock and see if they can find the other pair/ use a die and roll for a number of how many times you will sing a song or do an action in a song/do a spelling bee going back and forth
Growing a community of parents and families in the Laundromats

- Speaking to families we encounter
- Fliers/Signage
- Stickers and coloring sheets—used to personally invite families over and a chance to discuss why we are there
- Model behavior for them to use with their children in regards to books, songs, and activities.
  - Showing that learning doesn’t need to be expensive
Challenges

- Getting parents and kids BOTH to come over while they are doing laundry
- Competing with televisions, Ipads, and snack time
- Owners unresponsive
- No kids/older kids
- Kids come in and out at various times or we don’t see parents
- How much does it cost?
Foster connections between families and libraries that serve them

- Bring maps with location closest to them highlighted / ask the neighborhood of their home and find closest library
- Bring library card applications and discuss the benefits of having a library card for the whole family
- Discuss some programs that happened or are happening
- Bring fliers of homework help for older children
- Talk with the families
Math in Everyday Life

- Play Games
- Observe
- Question
- Make it Hands On
Questions?

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