

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

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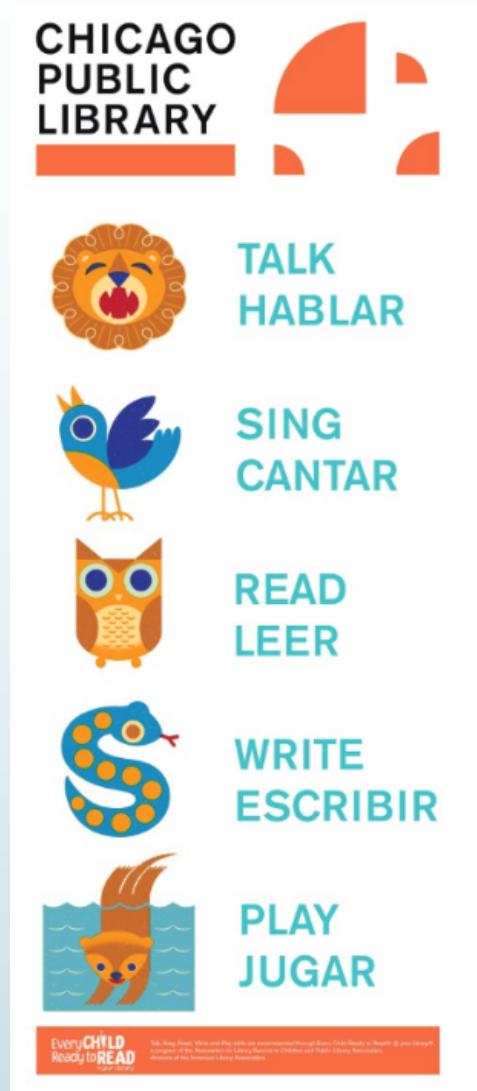
STEAM Team at the Chicago Public Library



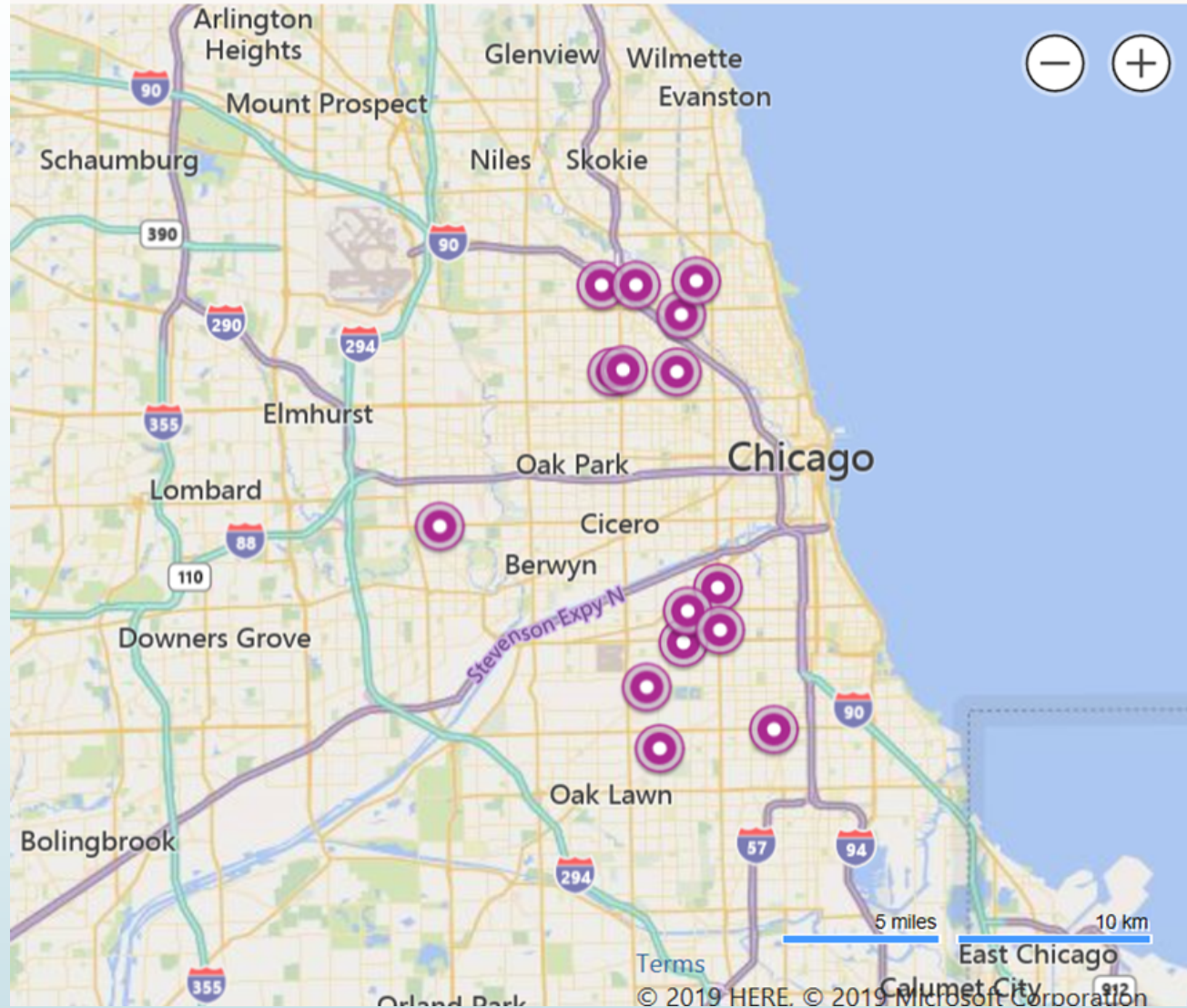
Chipublib.org -> EVENTS -> search "STEAM"

Every Child Ready to Read 2

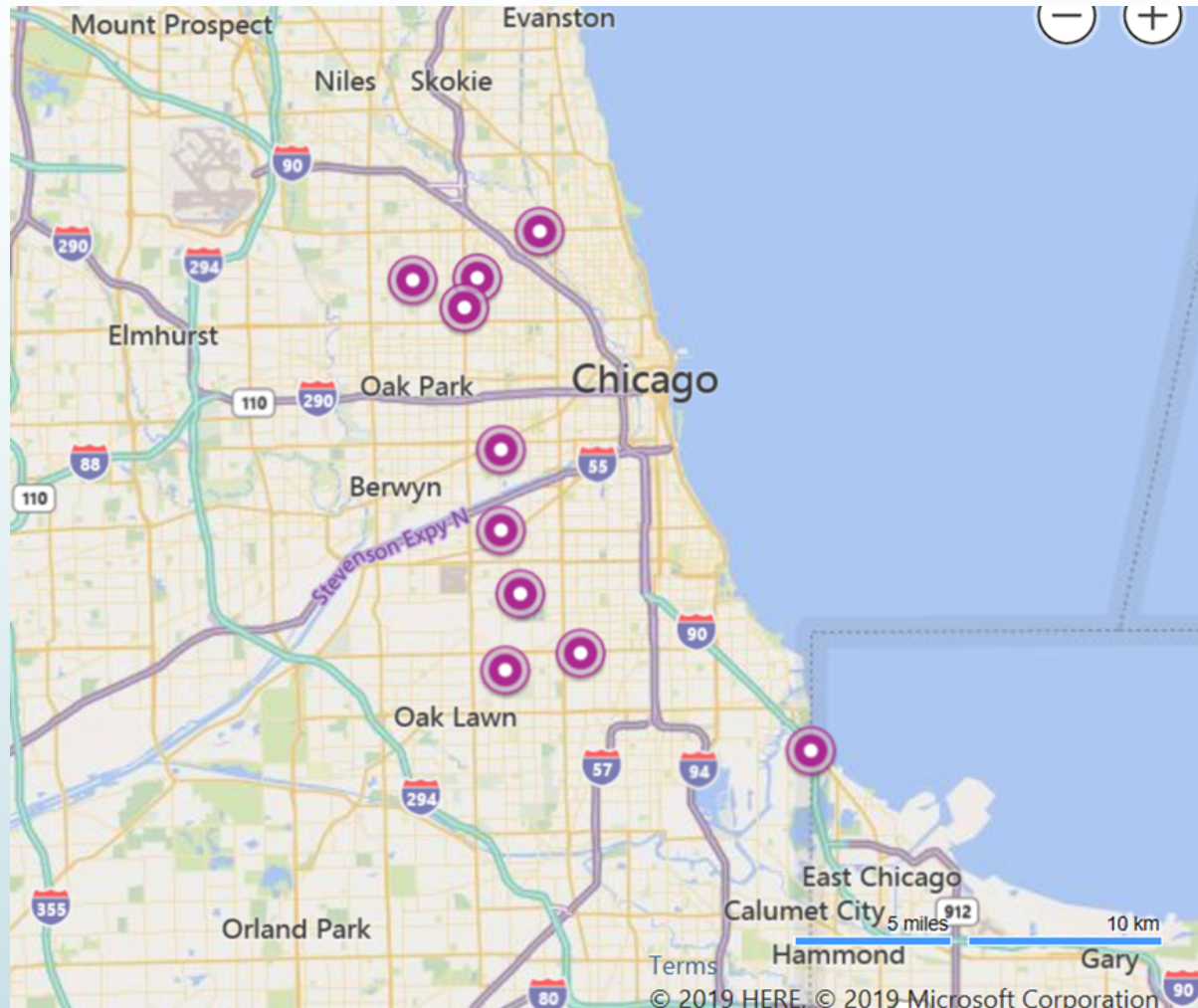
5 things
to do
every
day that
help
your
child
learn



Laundromat Locations



Laundromat Locations: September 2019-December 2019 Evaluation Sites



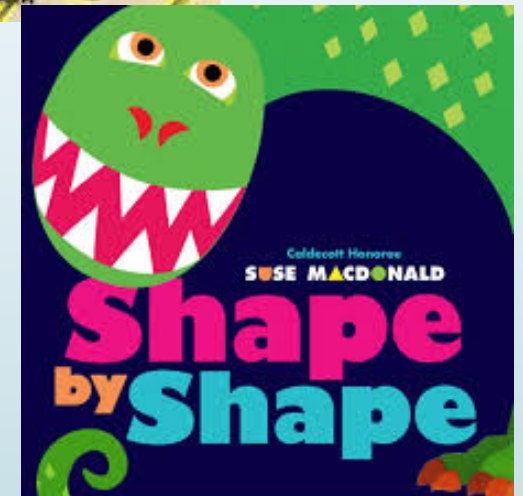
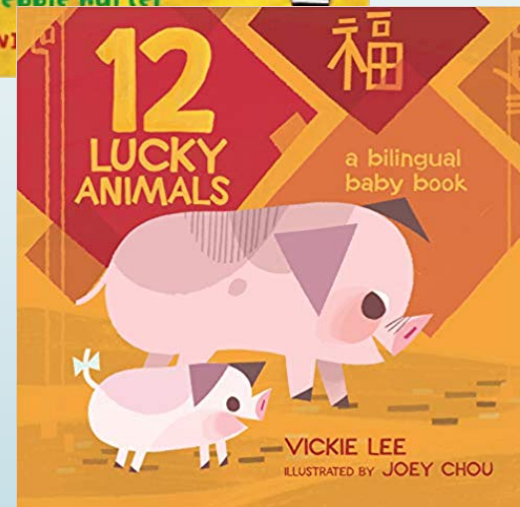
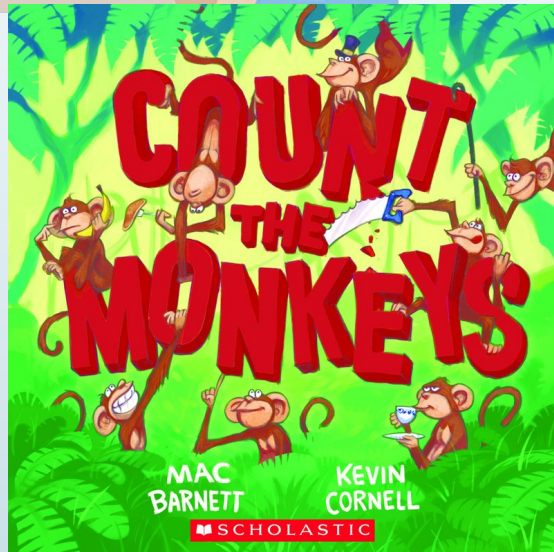
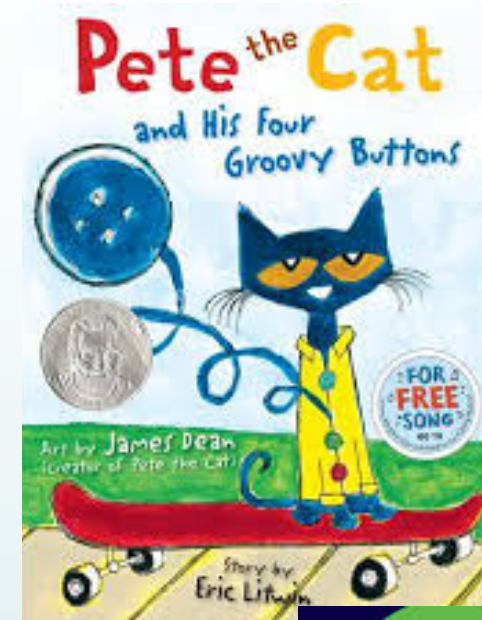
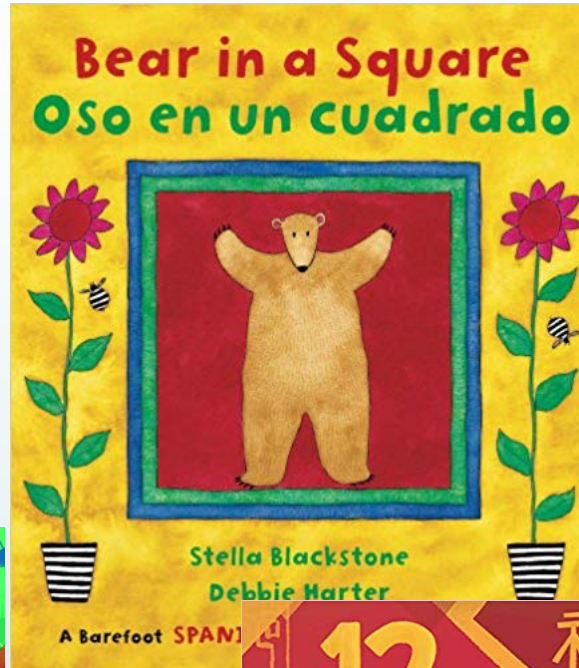
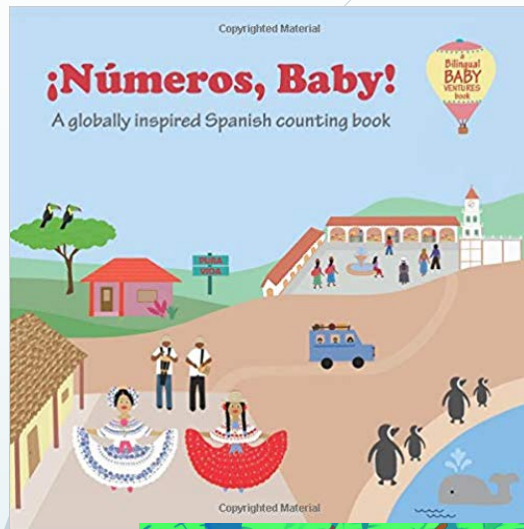
Chipublib.org
Events ->
Search:
“Laundromat
Story Time”

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



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 I spy 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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