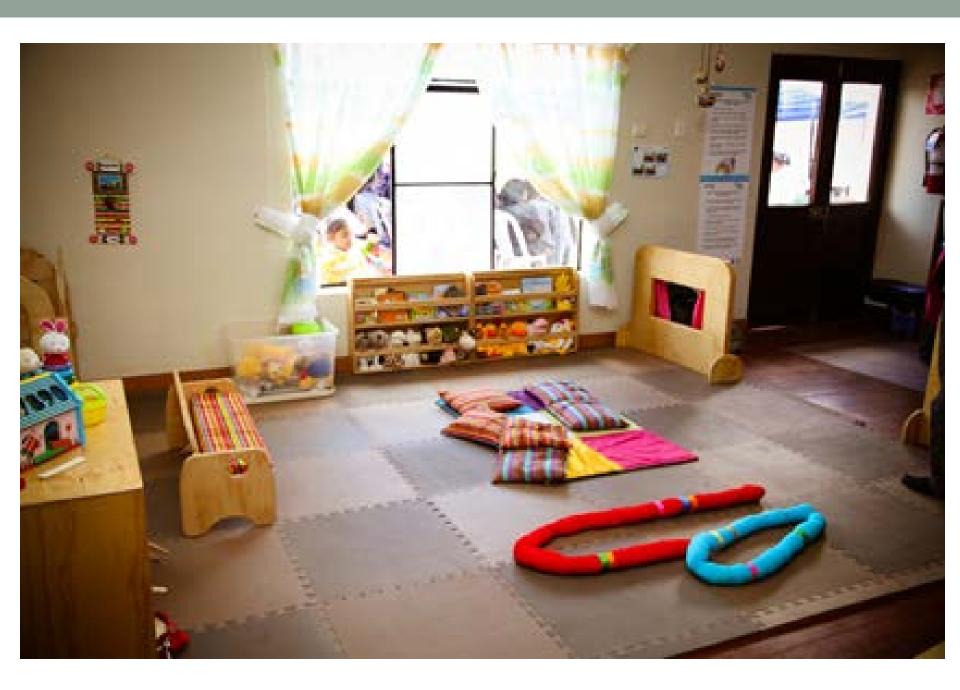
Pamela Mejia De Rodriguez, M.ED Regional Early Literacy Specialist Colorado State Library



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Youth & Family Services Consultant
Colorado State Library





Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.

— Emilie Buchwald

## Baby-Friendly Spaces (Burlington, CO)











## Baby-Friendly Spaces (Alamosa, CO)













## Baby-Friendly Spaces (Fountain, CO)













# Baby-Friendly Spaces- Creativity







## Space — wrap up

- Safe
- Welcoming
- Engaging for babies
- Developmentally appropriate
- Encouraging for parent/baby interactions
- Instructive with early literacy activities
- FUN!





# Programs

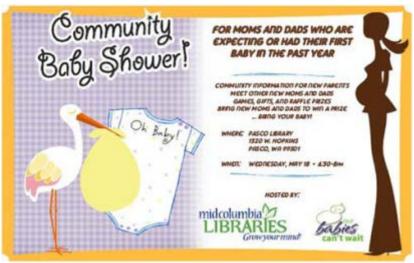






# More programs!





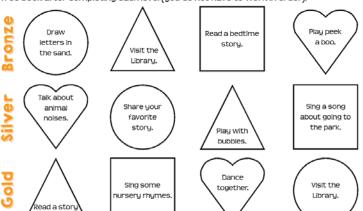
#### On your mark, get set...

as a family





A summer reading program for children birth-preschool and their families that promotes early literacy! Color in each shape as you finish it and earn a free book after completing each level (you do not have to work in order).



### Programs — wrap up

- Engage parents
- Model for parents
- Offer gaming elements
- Schedule baby programs evenings or Saturdays
- Get older siblings involved
- Have fun for all as a goal!

### **Policies**

- Do away with overdue fines for board and picture books
- Do away with fees for lost or damaged board books
- Have a flexible policy for lost or damaged picture books

### Customer service

- Welcome parents and families with infants
- Let all patrons know you welcome infants—and why
- Train and empower all front line staff to give parents early literacy tips and model early literacy activities



### Collections

- Offer board books in languages common in your community, plus wordless books
- Offer parenting and early literacy collection
- Circulate book bags with 5-10 books appropriate for specific ages
- Display, organize, and/or label books based on age level (babies, toddlers, preschool)

### Outreach

- Have programs in convenient locations and times, with existing programs that serve parents with babies
- Promote and even deliver services online
- Reach out to expecting parents at prenatal programs and events
- Actively partner with organizations that already serve babies and their families