

Adult and Family Literacy Today

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Updates on adult and family literacy research, policy, and practice.

November is National Family Literacy Month!

During Family Literacy Month, we are celebrating states and organizations that provide family Literacy programs. This infographic includes data collected by the Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy to understand more about state and local efforts to fund and offer family literacy services throughout the U.S.

To download the infographic, click here: https://ed.psu.edu/research-grants/centers-institutes/goodling-institute/FL_Infographic

Institute Updates

Family Pathways, Centre County, Takes a Trip to Way Fruit Farm

On a crisp afternoon in October, the Centre County Family Pathways program took their annual fall field trip to Way Fruit Farm.

This year's event focused on cider making. Families had a personal tour of the cider room where they learned about (and witnessed) the cider making process from start to finish (see photo above).

After learning about apples and cider making, families took a hay ride out the to the pumpkin patch. Children and their parents sought the "perfect" pumpkin. Families explored pumpkin colors, sizes, shapes, textures and weights.

Lycoming County Family Pathways Program Facilitates Interactive Literacy Activities at Local Library

Penn State University's Family Pathways program in Lycoming County facilitates one of their weekly interactive literacy activities at the James V. Brown Library. Families come together to read books, explore the library, and participate in activities that encourage the parent to make the most of the child's development years.

Pictured is Jess from Williamsport sharing a book with her son, John. Jess, a first-time library user and new Family Pathways mom, was so excited to use the library that she went to get a picture ID, just so she was able to get a library card.

Goodling Presents at the 2021 National Center for Families Learning Conference

Goodling staff made three presentations at the recent 2021 National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) Conference. For more on each presentation and access to slides, read below:

["Family literacy in the U.S.: Where are we now?"](#): In 2017, the Goodling Institute published *Changing the Course of Family Literacy*, which examined the status of family literacy after Even Start was defunded. This presentation shared findings from two national surveys related to the status of family literacy that have been conducted to update this report.

"Interactive Literacy: Fun for Parent and Child!": Interactive literacy activities, or parent and children time, are critical to children's educational development. Participants learned about a toolkit they can use in their program to develop and deliver engaging interactive literacy activities in this "hands on" and interactive workshop.

"William Penn Foundation Family Literacy Initiative": In 2019, the William Penn Foundation launched an initiative to increase 2-gen programming in Philadelphia. Funded organizations serve diverse populations, including a program designed for grandparents. This session highlighted program features, preliminary evaluation data, and promising practices.



Recent Publications

Interactive Literacy Activities (ILA) Toolkit

Check out Goodling's recently published **Interactive Literacy Activities (ILA) Toolkit**. The Toolkit provides guidance and suggestions for implementing ILA in family literacy programs. Parent and child interactive literacy activities support parents and children learning together and help parents understand how they can support their child's language and literacy development. Included in the Toolkit are ideas for in-person, hybrid, take-home, and remote interactive literacy activities.

New Book on Family Literacy Theories, Policies and Practices on Pre-order

Dr. Esther Prins (Co-Director of Goodling and ISAL) and Dr. Jacqueline Lynch recently co-authored a book on family literacy entitled **Teaching and Learning about Family Literacy and Family Literacy Programs**.

The book provides a systematic exploration of family literacy, including its historic origins, theoretical expansion, practical applications within the field, and focused topics within family literacy. Grounded in sociocultural approaches to learning and literacy, the book covers research on how families use literacy in their daily lives as well as different models of family literacy programs and interventions that provide opportunities for parent-child literacy interactions and that support the needs of children and parents as adult learners.

The book is currently available for pre-order [here](#).

Affordances of Video in a Family Literacy Program for Incarcerated Fathers

Dr. Anna Kaiper-Marquez, Dr. Tabitha Stickel, and Dr. Esther Prins, recently published an article in the *Journal of Moral Education* entitled **'Daddy made a mistake and needed a time out': Incarcerated parents as moral educators**. The paper explores concurrent rifts and junctures between incarceration, parenting, and morality by revealing how incarcerated fathers at a Pennsylvania state correctional institution (SCI) used a family literacy program to offer moral instruction to their young children. Further, it examines the seeming paradox of how incarcerated parents viewed as morally culpable seek to shape their children's moral development while serving time for their own past actions.

Announcements

Goodling and ISAL Offer Online Family Literacy and Adult Basic Education Certificates

Goodling and ISAL collaborate with Penn State World Campus to provide [Family Literacy Certificates](#) and [Adult Basic Education \(ABE\) Certificates](#). You can use credits toward master's degree programs and other certificates while learning high-quality, research-based knowledge about family literacy and ABE. Goodling also offers [scholarships](#) for those working toward their Family Literacy Certificate!

[Click Here](#) for more information on how to sign up for these certificates and courses.

Emily Brandenburg Joins ISAL as a Workforce Development Specialist

Emily Brandenburg recently joined ISAL as the new Workforce Development Specialist. She earned her undergraduate degree at Penn State and is thrilled to be working at her alma mater. Her family and she recently moved back to State College after 21 years in North Carolina where she served as the Program Coordinator for Adult High School and High School Equivalency and then as the Director for Academic and Career Readiness at Cape Fear Community College. She has previously worked in K-12 as a high school English teacher and an administrator.

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