



News & Resources

September 28, 2022



Diverse Literacy Practices

[Lauren Padesky](#)

Did you know that literacy practices are socially and culturally informed? When families participate in diverse ways of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, they are practicing literacy in ways that are socially and culturally meaningful (e.g., Heath, 1983). The ways that children are asked to practice literacy in school are exactly that very school-specific! (We don't write informational reports to update our Facebook followers

about our lives, after all.)

It is critical to understand that the purposes children and families have for literacy in their home lives may diverge from school-based literacy practices, and that is okay. Here are some of the (legitimate, valid) ways that families are using/consuming literacy in the home and community, beyond adult-child lap-reading:

- Oral storytelling and verbal word-play
- List-making, couponing, and other retail-related literacy practices
- Temple, mosque, church, and other worship-based activities, including sacred text reading and singing
- Digital and non-digital gaming, both of which are often reading-heavy (e.g., Pokemon cards)
- Online reading-based children's programming (e.g., YouTube read alouds)
- Young children's television programming and online gaming (e.g., PBS Kids)
- Social media content creation
- MORE

Importantly, children and families are engaging in these diverse literacy practices in multiple languages, across a range of dialects, and in a variety of contexts. When we stop to consider the rich and varied ways that communities are helping to grow readers and writers, we can undoubtedly find a plethora of home-school-community connections! The many ways of reading, writing, speaking, and listening that inform American life should also inform American early literacy classrooms. When practitioners engage with families and communities, seeking to understand the unique ways that literacy informs life, the classroom can absolutely be enriched with new reasons to be and become literate.



Implementation Teams are Critical to Successful Systems Change

[Sally Reed Crawford](#)

Implementation Teams have been called a new lever for organization change in education (Higgins, Weiner, & Young, 2012). ECC staff are currently facilitating system change in local school districts and the state First Steps system. Both efforts are occurring due to local or state commitments to embark on a new initiative to work towards the implementation of evidence-based practices to increase child outcomes in early intervention home-based who have identified a new initiative to work towards the implementation of evidence-based practices to increase child outcomes in early intervention home-based services, preschool inclusion, or early literacy. This important work begins with establishing an **Implementation Team**. The National Implementation Research Network (NIRN), defines an implementation team as:

A group of stakeholders that oversees, attends to, and is accountable for key functions of evidence-based practice [selection, implementation, and improvement](#).

NIRN also outlines that an **implementation team is not** an advisory body, a group that provides only periodic input or meets during crisis, or a technical work group or learning collaborative. Implementation Teams are charged with developing implementation capacity at either the local or state level so they can establish and sustain practitioner's use of effective innovations with fidelity.

Implementation teams can be created by either repurposing or expanding an existing team or assembling a new team to address implementation changes. An implementation team usually consists of a core group of diverse individuals (usually a minimum of 5-8). Diverse district teams have differing perspectives, training and expertise, experiences, relationships and priorities, as well as the time to engage in implementation infrastructure development.

Key functions of an implementation team are:

- Communicating
- Planning
- Problem-solving
- Ensuring staff training and coaching
- Collecting Data
- Analyzing and Studying Data

Implementation Teams ensure the new initiative happens as intended. Your district can learn more about Implementation Science and Implementation Teams, please explore the [Child Impact Project website](#).

Around the Watercooler at ECC

Anto - As mentioned in the article, it is critical to have a diverse Implementation Team. The team should reflect different expertise and experiences. The First Steps implementation team consists of different voices such as parents, therapists, state team, and Researchers with diverse backgrounds. Each of these members contributes their ideas, opinions, and thoughts. I believe that having different identities in the core

team can amplify voices that are often not acknowledged and make the implementation a success.

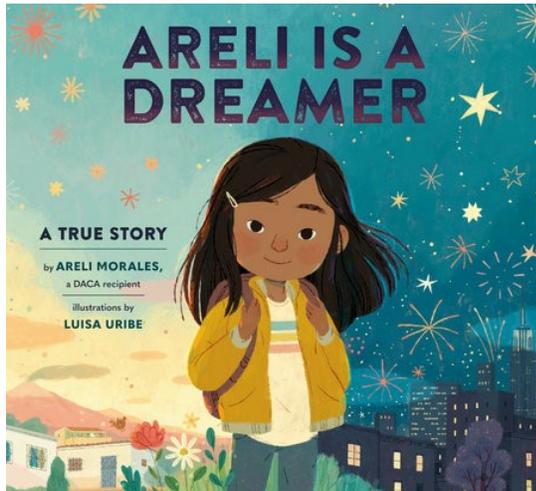
Katie - The First Steps team is supporting the state leadership team to implement a new home visiting framework called [Family Guided Routines Based Intervention \(FGRBI\)](#) . Because we want it to be implemented with fidelity and be sustainable over time, we are using implementation teams. The first State Implementation Team met last week. As agencies begin the process of training and coaching around FGRBI, they will have agency implementation teams that will consist of agency leadership and staff who know agency culture and policies. One of the things we'll be working on is ensuring strong communication between the agency teams and the state team so that successes and challenges are used to adapt future cycles of implementation. It's exciting work!

Lynne - So far, the districts focusing on early literacy have elected to assemble new teams, rather than repurpose an existing team, to ensure that the early literacy representation needed is present. Providing districts information about the different roles members will assume has been key to identifying the right people to invite. Beyond the Implementation Science expertise provided by the ECC staff, the District Literacy Team roles include: 1) decision and resource authority, 2) data access and analysis, 3) content expertise, 4) communication dissemination, and 5) champions with authority to sponsor change. These roles are critical to creating an attainable, sustainable, and data-informed plan for achieving the team's vision.

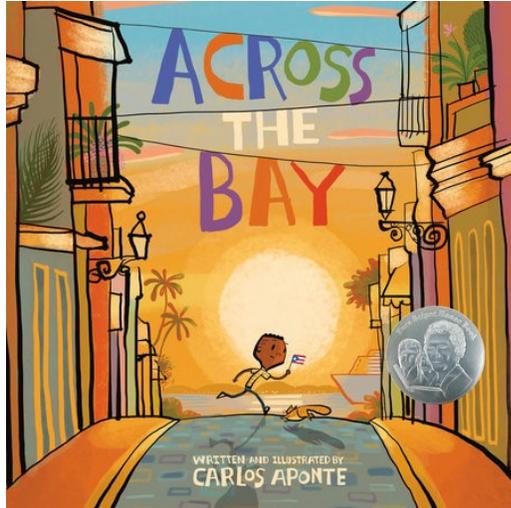
Sue - The importance of establishing a diverse implementation team lies in the fact that people with different backgrounds, experiences, relationships, perspectives and priorities will bring their own unique ideas to the process, therefore enriching the conversation, the process and ultimately the end product. A diverse team can help ensure that all team planning discussions include the cultural, racial, linguistic and other issues that impact the work.

How Diverse is Your Library?

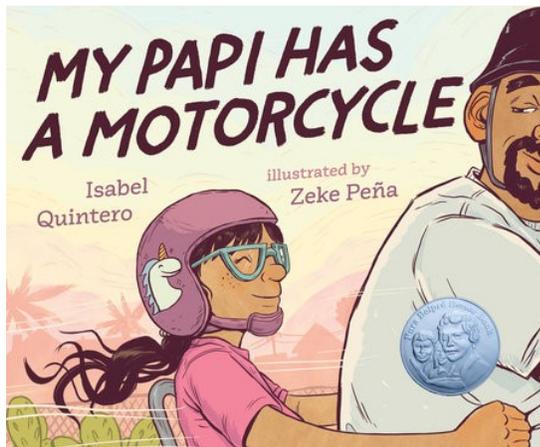
Here are some book suggestions to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, September 15 through October 15.



[Areli is a Dreamer](#), written by Areli Morales and illustrated by Luisa Uribe



[Across the Bay](#), written and illustrated by Carlos Aponte



[My Papi Has a Motorcycle](#), written by Isabel Quintero and illustrated by Zeke Pena



Call for Proposals - Early Intervention

Indiana First Steps is partnering with Indiana University's Early Childhood Center to bring together national and local experts on early intervention. The First Steps Conference will be held in Bloomington, Indiana on June 9-10, 2022. To submit a proposal to present your evidence-based research or innovative ideas at the conference please [complete the submission form](#). Submissions will be accepted until January 4, 2022.

For more information or to register for the conference, [visit our website](#).



Call for Proposals - Early Education

The Early Childhood Special Education Conference is calling for proposals to present. The themes of the conference are inclusion, collaboration, and transition. **Promoting Positive Outcomes**, is calling for proposals to present. Proposals are due by December 1, 2021. To submit a proposal [fill out this survey](#). For more information, please visit the conference website at <https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/ecc/news-and-events/preschool-conference.html>.