

By the Numbers

- Number of library programs for children:
3.7 million*
- Attendance at children's library programs:
61.6 million*
- Total circulation of children's materials:
816.7 million*
- IMLS support for early learning programs
in 2010: **\$5.3 million**

*Source: 2009 Public Library Survey



Young readers use the Ready to Read Resource Center at the Anchorage, Alaska Public Library.

Benefits of Library Early Learning Programs

- Public libraries apply current scientific evidence about brain development to create programs that support early childhood learning and school readiness.
- The library is a primary place in a community where parents and early educators have access to specialized materials and programs.
- Librarians create strong partnerships with community organizations to reach the children most at risk.
- Public libraries offer critical intergenerational programs to reach not only children but their parents and caregivers as well.
- Early childhood programs can use local librarians as consultants on such topics as extending lesson plans; aligning books with specific topics; providing material resources like puppets, music, and props; and providing ideas on expanding literacy throughout early childhood classrooms.

A New Challenge

In March, 2012 IMLS announced an "Early Learning Challenge" and will provide up to \$2 million to support early learning projects that support the goals of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading including school readiness and combating summer reading loss and chronic school absence.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, we help communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning. To learn more about IMLS, please visit www.imls.gov.