LOOK & LISTEN
• What’s going on in your community?
• What questions about childcare & early learning options in your area do you or your patrons have?
• How do Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers use your library?

EXPLORE & EXAMINE
You’ve got this!
• What is your library already doing to support early learning and FFN caregivers?
• What other community organizations are working with families and caregivers with young children?

INNOVATE & INSPIRE
• What can you do right now?
• How can you leverage your expertise & passion in service to FFN caregivers?
• How can you model early learning best practices for FFNs?

DREAM & DISCOVER
Recognize your passion for early learning.
• What inspires you?
• What are your goals for supporting FFN caregivers and early learning at your library?
• What do you need to get there?
LOOK & LISTEN
• Spark community conversations! Talk with caregivers, community organizers, and co-workers about childcare and early learning.
• Look beyond your library walls. Where in your community do families & FFN caregivers gather? Look for both physical and virtual gathering places.
• Understand your community. What resources does your community have to support young families? Familiarize yourself with the early childhood landscape and local statistics.
• Look again! Dig into your library’s stats and see where you’ve grown. Collect formal and informal opinions. Keep exploring, dreaming, and innovating!

EXPLORE & EXAMINE
• Look in your toolbox. Take stock of your library’s assets, existing relationships, as well as, your own personal knowledge and passion.
• Build relationships. Join your local Early Childhood Council. Get to know formal and informal caregivers and organizations that serve them.
• Expand your expertise. Look at what other libraries are doing successfully. Connect with your colleagues and professional networks. Consult early learning literature and publications. Prepare to be a knowledgeable advocate for quality early learning and care.

INNOVATE & INSPIRE
• Experiment. Look for quick wins and immediate impact to build motivation. Be open to the unexpected. Track your progress and don’t be afraid to change course if things aren’t working!
• Spread the word! Promote early learning beyond the library walls at natural gathering places & service locations. Activate your partnerships, find “community ambassadors” and encourage your library’s staff to share your mission!
• Inspire change. Connect with FFN caregivers. Make early learning accessible, transparent, and intentional. Make every interaction meaningful!
• Celebrate growth! Honor your work, share your successes, and learn from your mistakes.

DREAM & DISCOVER
• Imagine the possibilities! Consider the library’s physical space as well as programming and outreach. Re-imagine what you can do with your library’s current assets and dare to dream about large scale changes.
• Set clear goals. Define short and long term goals that are manageable and measurable.
• Advocate for early literacy! Share your efforts with stakeholders in the community and in your own library. You never know where you might find a new partner.