



# Delivering the Best Start: A Guide to Early Years Libraries

Carolynn Rankin, Avril Brock

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## Description

There is no doubt that reading with young children is important, and libraries are uniquely placed to support the development of literacy skills in pre-school children. This book is a pioneering practical guide for library and information professionals involved in strategically planning or delivering services and programmes in early years libraries. Drawing on the authors' research and examples from best practice - what other people have tried and what works well - this book equips practitioners with knowledge and ideas, and will encourage the reader to work with other key professionals in the field. Key areas covered include: the background and context of early years literacy; the role of the early years professional, interdisciplinary team work, and how to involve parents and carers; buildings and space, including planning and designing spaces for the childrens' libraries of the future; managing resources and collection development; planning projects and running literacy sessions; and case studies of successful pre-school library initiatives from around the world. User-friendly and accessible, each chapter is clearly structured and sets out the background to the topic, the key issues for practitioners, practical ideas and resources for service provision, and recommended further reading. The book also includes checklists and 'how to' practical guidance, useful information on relevant organisations, and links to helpful websites. An essential purchase for all library and information professionals working with young children, this book is also suitable for students of library and information studies, childhood studies, and practitioners undertaking NVQ qualifications. The book is also a useful starting point for those wanting a background in early years literacy.

## Contents

1. Take them to the library – setting the scene 2. People and partnerships, skills and knowledge 3. Buildings, design and space 4. Resources for early years libraries – books, toys and other delights 5. Reaching your audience – the librarian's role 6. Planning.

## Author

Carolynn Rankin worked for 20 years in special and academic library and information services before moving into professional education in 2000, most recently as a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences at Leeds Metropolitan University. She is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and External Examiner for the CILIP Qualifications Board. Dr Avril Brock is a Principal Lecturer in the Carnegie Faculty at Leeds Metropolitan University. She teaches in the School of Education and Childhood on a range of Postgraduate and Undergraduate Early Childhood Education courses.