

Brain Boxes 2008-2009

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Places Brain Boxes in Arizona Libraries

The Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records invested \$75,000 in Arizona's children by purchasing forty-two sets of Brain Boxes to place in libraries throughout the state. Created by the New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development, the Brain Boxes contain materials designed to help parents and caregivers to engage in activities with children from birth to five years old that will encourage healthy brain development at each stage of physical growth. The sets of twelve boxes include two for infants, two for babies, two for toddlers, and six for preschool children.



Arizona has a voter-funded initiative, First Things First, which is working with community partners to build a system that grows and sustains a coordinated network of early childhood programs and services. Placing Brain Boxes in libraries aligns with a goal of the Arizona State Library to provide access to public information and to the vision of First Things First that "all Arizona children birth through age five are afforded opportunities to achieve their maximum potential to succeed in school and life."

A celebration was held at the State Library's Carnegie Center on September 25, 2008 to present the Brain Boxes to the libraries that applied and were selected to receive them. The recipients included public, tribal, military and school libraries from every county in the state. Guest speakers Nadine Mathis Basha, First Things First Board Chairperson, and Dr. Jill Stamm, co-founder of New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development,



highlighted the important role that libraries play in school readiness by providing services and resources such as the Brain Boxes to preschool children, their parents and caregivers. A workshop by Dr. Stamm for librarians receiving the Brain Boxes followed the

presentation ceremony. During that training, ideas were exchanged on how to use this new resource. In addition to circulating the kits, libraries were encouraged to design programming that would show parents how to use the Brain Boxes and give them guided practice time. Additional regional trainings are planned.



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