Early Learning with Families (ELF) @ Your library
ASSESSMENT SCALE

This assessment tool is designed to assist library staff in planning and tracking the implementation, development and evolution of library services for young children (0-5), their families and caregivers. The statements on the left each describe an approach from before ELF while the statements on the right each represent a competency of the ELF initiative. You determine where your early learning program is on this continuum by selecting a number between "1" (initial implementation) through "6" (full implementation).

Initial Implementation	Continuum	Full Implementation
1. Spaces, collections and services are primarily for children who are 5-years of age and older.	1……..……2……....…..3…..…..…..4……..……..5……...……..6	1. Spaces, collections and services are offered to infants, toddlers and preschool children – younger than 5-years of age.
2. Services and activities focus on and involve primarily children.	1……..……2……....…..3…..…..…..4……..……...5……...……..6	2. Services and activities focus on and involve the whole family – the child, siblings, parents and other adult caregivers.
3. An understanding of child development is not required in the design and delivery of children's services.	1……..……2……....…..3…..…..…..4……..……...5……...……..6	3. The design and delivery of children's services are deliberately based on an understanding of child development and the importance of a growth mindset. Staff is trained accordingly.
4. Programming focuses on developing literacy skills in young child.	1……..……2……....…..3…..…..…..4……..……...5……...……..6	4. Programming focuses on developing the whole child…physical, social, emotional, and cognitive (including language and literacy) skills.
5. Programs are presented to children as they sit and listen. Activities that are provided are focused on a specific final product.	1……..……2……....…..3…..…..…..4……..……...5……...……..6	5. Programs actively promote interaction among family members. Children have opportunities to initiate involvement based on their interests. They have chances to move, explore, pretend and experiment. Activities focus on the process versus a specific final product.

Initial Implementation	Continuum	Full Implementation
6. Library staff delivers services and determines all program content.	1…….……2…….....…3.…….……4……........5……....…..6	6. Library staff work with families, caregivers and community partners to co-create services. Staff offers support, guidance and resources while providing opportunities to learn, interact and network.
7. Library staff relies on their own knowledge, experience and resources to serve families and caregivers.	1…….……2…….....…3.…….……4……........5……....…..6	7. Library staff partner with community representatives and early childhood agencies to provide family/caregiver services, resources and expertise.
8. Staff members tend to believe library services are most appropriate for adults and older children. The library space, resources and culture are geared to accommodating adults and older children. Staff also tends to see their role as educating parents and caregivers through instruction.	1…….……2…….....…3.…….……4……........5……....…..6	8. Library staff welcomes and supports the involvement of families and caregivers as well as young children themselves. The library has made accommodations for families with young children that are reflected in the environment such as child and adult friendly furniture; changing tables in restrooms; a place for strollers; allowing food and/or a place for lactating mothers; collections that include materials for infants and toddlers, as well as resources on parenting; etc. Staff attitudes also reflect an understanding of child development while staff interactions with families strive to support parental/caregiver mastery.
9. Library Literacy Services and Children's Services work separately.	1…….……2…….....…3.…….……4……........5……....…..6	9. Literacy and Children's Services have a close working relationship in support of their programs, family recruitment and outreach. They share their expertise and resources as well as the delivery of services.
10. Library services are delivered at the library.	1…….……2…….....…3.…….……4……........5……....…..6	10. Library services are delivered at the library as well as at various locations in the community in collaboration with agency partners, in order to reach families who may not be regular library patrons.