Community Partnerships in Early Childhood

Library programming that intersects with community goals.	Maryville Public Library	Maryville R-2	Parents As Teachers	Head Start	St. Gregory's
Meet Me at the Library Nights Mobile Library Go! Storytime (afterschool prog) Referrals Promotion/Publicity	Champion reading and literacy: Continue youth programming aimed at early literacy skills development and summer reading.	Utilize collaboration and partnerships between home, school and community to promote academic achievement and graduate employable citizens.	Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices Increase children's school readiness and school success. Improve participation in Parents As Teacher program, focusing especially on high need families and young parent families.	(Paraphrase): Leverage community partnerships to promote parent engagement. These may include… libraries.	

Tech Connect Children's Business Fair Lego Club	Support lifelong learning in the Maryville community in alignment with community needs: Continue youth programming promoting technology and engineering skills.	Provide individually challenging and evolving educational experiences to prepare all students for college and career readiness.			
Art Contest	Empower individuals in their own creative endeavors: Continue youth programming promoting creative work.				To encourage and promote service and activities with the wider community, so that each student might learn to love their neighbor in deed, as well as in word.

How do you reach out to partners?

I send out a lot of emails to potential partners that start with "I have an idea…" LOL! *By targeting partners with similar goals, it makes the road to "yes" smooth a lot of the time. We have been fortunate to have people in the public and private schools who have been very receptive to partnership and collaboration.*

There are several different ways partnerships have begun. A teacher who used to work for the library part-time recommended I contact the after-school program, and they were excited to have someone provide some literacy activities and a pop-up (mobile) library for those kids in the afterschool program.

As a former PAT parent educator, I have a heart for the PAT program and wanted to see we could support them while staying on track with the goals for the library. I reached out and introduced myself and talked to the new parent educator about what services we provided and let her know that I am a sincere admirer of the PAT framework and willing to support them in any way I could. Then, when I thought of a project or service that might be a good fit with PAT, it was easy to contact her and ask what her thoughts would be on partnering for a project because she had a name, face, and memory of a positive interaction.

In working with Head Start, I said yes when asked to serve on the policy council board. By being familiar with the organization, it helps to know what the needs are and identify ways in which goals can be supported in both organizations.

I served on an Early Literacy Coalition which later disbanded, but during that time a professor who had come to us for support for the Reach Out and Read program invited me to talk to her class about my literacy events at the library. She also wanted them to assist with these events as part of their coursework in order to fill a gap related to experiences with infants/toddlers and in working with parents alongside their children.

How do you agree to programs?

We have to be careful to keep our mission and vision in front of us. Our mission is to help the citizens of Maryville succeed and enjoy life by reading, learning, creating, and connecting. Sometimes that means saying no to opportunities/ partnerships presented to us in order to say yes and have quality programming in those that we think are the best fit for our mission and vision. The number one thing my supervisor reminds me of when presented with a new idea is to "Go back to our 'why.'"

How do use "professionals" from different organizations together?

This could be where we put in some of our own experiences with NW, Mosaic child care, public schools.

In March we will be doing a Gently Used Book Drive which will culminate in an I Love Books early literacy event. The PAT parent educator will invite PAT families and all children who attend the event will be given a free book to take home and PAT will keep the remainder of the books from the drive to bring on PAT home visits. The books will be left in the homes of those visited in order to start building home libraries. This meets the PAT goal for supporting early literacy and it meets the library's goal of providing print-rich environments for children.

What are the results?

This could be some results from summer reading, as well as some comments from NW college students who may be partnering in the future through their own classroom work

Sample Community Asset Map Worksheet yalsa

List all of the entities you know of in your community that can help
you reach and serve youth. Use this tool to help:
http://youth.gov/map-my-community

Local Economy (e.g. banks)

Institutions (e.g. community college)

Space (e.g. school auditoriums)

Organizations (e.g. Kiwanis Club)

People (e.g. retirees)

People

Local Economy

Institutions

My Community

Space

Organizations

*Adapted from the Community Development Institute's
Community Building Workbook*

Asset Map Worksheet

Brainstorm a list of assets you can leverage for helping to meet mutual goals.

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People

Resources (e.g. captive audience ☺)

Funds (e.g. a part of the operating budget)

Space (e.g. classroom)

Organizations

People

Funds

Resources

My Organization

Space

Organizations