

# Early Head Start/Head Start School Readiness Institute

## Sample Topics for Poster Presentations

(Each of these 6 elements should be addressed in the narrative proposal)

	<b>Example 1 Literacy</b>	<b>Example 2 Family Engagement</b>	<b>Example 3 Behavior</b>
<b>1.Name of Presentation</b>	Happy Readers	Parent Paperwork Pilot	Using the Play Kit to improve peer interactions
<b>2.Why did you initiate this practice or approach?</b>	Children’s assessment scores in early literacy were low in phonological awareness and letter identification	Family service partners were overwhelmed by the large number of requests to help parents attend meetings and complete paperwork.	25% of children in the XYZ program have challenging behavior as measured by the behavioral screener completed in October. Teachers report feeling overwhelmed by the number of children with challenging behavior, especially escalating conflicts during play.
<b>3.What did you hope to accomplish?</b>	Improve children’s early literacy skills, especially phonological awareness and letter identification	Increase parents’ knowledge and skills so that they can independently complete required forms in a variety of settings.	Improve children’s peer interaction skills, including how to invite others to play, join in play, sustain play with others, and problem solve with peers.
<b>4.How did you go about it?</b>	Implemented the Happy Readers curriculum; Shared information and strategies with parents at monthly parent meetings;	Family Service Partners collaborated to develop a parent education workshop. The training included samples of most commonly used forms. The workshop was piloted at a half-dozen locations.	During the summer, selected teaching staff reviewed commercial curricula, websites and picture books. They developed a series of lessons, activities and support materials which they named the “Play Kit.” Connections were made to existing

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			classroom resources and the Virginia Early Learning Guidelines.
<b>5.What did you learn?</b>	<p>Children responded strongly to music and songs.</p> <p>Early literacy can be embedded throughout the day.</p> <p>Partnering with parents was a huge part of our success.</p>	<p>Teach the parents to fish!</p> <p>Some parents benefited from some follow up coaching and encouragement, but quickly gained confidence with experience.</p>	<p>Teachers liked having all the needed materials, ideas, and resources gathered together in one place.</p> <p>Children who were most successful were intentionally taught play skills and had multiple, coached opportunities to practice these skills.</p>
<b>6.Next Steps</b>	<p>We developed a list of suggested CD's for each classroom. We are applying for a grant to purchase CD's for classrooms and families.</p> <p>Our staff is brainstorming more ways to partner with families. We will introduce one new song/finger play at each monthly parent meeting.</p>	<p>Take it to Scale! We plan to offer more workshops. We are collaborating with the Parent Liaisons to offer this workshop for parents in the FECEP/Head Start program as parents of children in other grades.</p> <p>We have developed an end-of-the-year survey to solicit feedback from parents regarding usefulness of the workshop in day to day matters.</p>	<p>Peer Mentors: We identified teaching teams that were highly successful. They have been asked and agreed to partner with other staff to share success stories and effective strategies. They will meet to problem solve and visit each other's classrooms for focused observations.</p>