

Association for Library Service to Children

# NATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDA FOR LIBRARY SERVICE TO CHILDREN (AGES 0-14)

Approved by the ALSC Board of Directors on June 15, 2017



ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY  
SERVICE TO CHILDREN

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**ALSC Research Agenda Task Force:** *[Faded text]*

**Research Agenda Advisory Board:** *[Faded text]*

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# Learning and Development Science - Age C and Family

**A** research agenda for library service to children (ages 5-14) in the area of learning and development science and family. This agenda is based on the current research in the field and the needs of children and families. The agenda is organized into four main areas: (1) Early Childhood Development, (2) Family Engagement, (3) Digital Learning, and (4) Community Partnerships. The agenda is intended to guide the research efforts of the ALSC and its members.

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## Research Questions

1.

# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## Children and Families

Children should be supported and encouraged to learn about themselves and their world, to build a healthy sense of their own identity and agency.

However, research demonstrates that children of color younger than 5 are encountering and suffering the effects of bias and racism (University of Pittsburgh, 2016; National Black Child Development Institute, 2013; Derman-Sparks, 2012). Studies show that children as



profession's efforts to serve diverse groups, there is little emphasis on discovering and being aware of one's personal cultural attitudes and understanding. This represents an important area of future research to understand current practices and perceptions when designing tools, programs, and services that ultimately benefit all of the community.

This priority area focuses on encouraging and emphasizing research that explores diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of public library service for children and their families, including library staff, literature and other resources, and services. This section both sits next to, and within, all the other areas in this research agenda, as diversity, equity, and inclusion should be a part of all conversations regarding potential inquiry that seeks to move the field forward.

## Research Questions

How, if at all, do library staff's backgrounds and intersectional identities impact children's and families' perception of libraries as welcoming spaces?

1. How, if at all, do library staff's backgrounds and intersectional identities impact their development, delivery, and assessment of library programming, collection management, and services?
2. What, if any, effect does exposure to stories that reflect the identity of the children engaging with the story have on the children exposed to them? How, if at all, do these stories impact children's feelings of self-worth and confidence?
3. What, if any, effect does exposure to stories that reflect a different identity than that of the children engaging with the story have on the children exposed to them? How, if at all, do these stories impact children's empathy for, and understanding of, others' diverse identities?

4. How, if at all, do library staff develop, deliver, and assess inclusive library programs, collections, and services?
5. How, if at all, do they incorporate community knowledge and traditions into these programs, collections, and services?
6. What are the barriers to library patronage and participation for underrepresented children and families? How, if at all, are libraries bridging these barriers?
7. How, if at all, do libraries support children and/or families experiencing trauma, crisis, or discrimination? What do care-based practices for children look like in the public library?
8. How do children with disabilities and their families perceive the services, programs, materials, personnel, and equipment provided by the public library?
9. How, if at all, are libraries (or community centers) related to Día<sup>1</sup> in their communities? How, if at all, do these activities support cognitive and literacy development?

1. "El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), commonly known as Día, is a celebration every day of children, families, and reading that culminates yearly on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds." (Día website, n.d.).



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# Library Academic and Research Leadership

Library Academic and Research Leadership



# Pressão da Direção da Biblioteca Sobre a Seleção de Materiais

Quando a biblioteca é pressionada a selecionar materiais que não são adequados para os interesses e necessidades dos usuários, isso pode resultar em uma perda de credibilidade e de confiança por parte dos usuários. Além disso, a pressão da direção da biblioteca pode resultar em uma seleção de materiais que não são adequados para os interesses e necessidades dos usuários, o que pode resultar em uma perda de credibilidade e de confiança por parte dos usuários.

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The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is driven by members dedicated to the support and enrichment of library service. Our members include youth librarians, literature experts, publishers, and