

Hatchlings

Maryland Pilot Evaluation Highlights



Overview

Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings is a unique program under the Mother Goose on the Loose® umbrella. Hatchlings consists of two separate programs: Ready to Hatch for expectant parents and In the Nest for parents with newborns. The programs have been piloted and evaluated for three years with eleven selected library systems across the state of Maryland. Year three included a partnership among libraries and Judy Centers in seven counties across the state.



In the Nest Session, Pilot 1, Carroll County Public Library, Denise Laird, Facilitator

Hatchlings Resources

- A website of resources for programming <https://mgol.net/home/hatchlings/>
- Detailed instructional guides for facilitators
- Materials to support program delivery in either English or Spanish
- Consent and evaluation forms & content handouts in multiple formats
- Board books, shakers, puppets & other early literacy materials for parents
- Large, colorful panels to support content for in-person program delivery
- PowerPoints to support virtual delivery
- Ongoing professional development and support for pilot facilitators



In the Nest Virtual Session, Pilot 1, Prince George's County Memorial Library System, Pam Hamlin & Kirsten Grunberg, Facilitators

Data from *Ready to Hatch* Pilots

Hatchlings, Ready to Hatch is a one workshop program. Parents were asked to complete an evaluation immediately following their *Ready to Hatch* workshop and a follow-up survey was solicited after their babies were born.

Ninety-nine percent of parents surveyed from the three pilot years (n=83) stated that they increased their understanding, and one hundred percent increased their confidence regarding supporting their baby's early literacy development (before and after birth) by participating in the *Ready to Hatch* workshop!

Follow-up surveys received found that parents reported using the information from the *Hatchlings* workshop and incorporating early literacy activities into their daily routines with their newborns. Furthermore, parents stated that the activities had helped them bond with their babies and feel more confident about supporting their new baby's early literacy development.

Quotes from Participants Following Workshop Participation

"Thanks, this was great for my mental health to get out and learn and gain confidence." - Howard County Library System workshop participant

"I loved learning about high contrast books for babies and all the offerings at the library. Really excited for the follow up programming. As a couple planning on raising our child in a bilingual English-Spanish speaking household, programs like these are magnificent! - Chelsea Schein, Montgomery County Public Libraries participant

"I share the book with him every night before my daughter falls asleep as it is part of her routine and now my son is in the routine a little bit. I sing to him sometimes when I help him to fall asleep. I even talk to him while I am changing his diaper and I talk to him during tummy time in his baby gym. I am excited to have been a part of this experience before my baby was born and I will be extra thrilled when I join the hatchlings nest event. Most I am happy for my son. I feel these are exciting and crucial times for him to be educated in such a positive and fun way." - Katya Lienard, Prince George's County Memorial Library System workshop participant, Follow-up survey response

"I sing to her just about, if not always each time I make eye contact with her. If I'm not singing, I'm always talking to her. Even if it's in passing while being in her dad's arms. I read to her every day and play little games and nursery rhymes." - Montgomery County Public Libraries participant, Follow-up survey response



Ready to Hatch Workshops, Pilot 3, Montgomery County Public Libraries

Data from *In the Nest* Pilots

Hatchlings In the Nest is a four-workshop program for parents and their newborns. Parents were asked to complete a workshop evaluation following their first and last sessions. A follow-up survey was also solicited several months after the series was completed.

As with the *Ready to Hatch* pilot findings, ninety-nine percent of parents surveyed from the three pilot years (n = 146) stated that they increased their understanding, and one hundred percent increased their confidence regarding supporting their baby's early literacy development by participating with the *In the Nest* workshops! In addition, all agreed that they planned to apply what they had learned and listed many examples of what they were eager to try at home. Parents bonded with one another during the four-part series of workshops and in many instances expressed appreciation for the community of support they experienced throughout the trainings.

Follow-up surveys received found that parents reported using the information from the *Hatchlings* workshops and incorporating early literacy activities into their daily routines with their babies. As with *Ready to Hatch*, parents stated that the activities from *In the Nest* had helped them bond with their babies and feel more confident about supporting their baby's early literacy development.

Quotes from Participants Following Participation in Workshops

"I love this program, especially since I can attend while on maternity leave. I love in person and learning new ways to interact with my baby. This is an amazing program!" - Sheila Patterson, Howard County Library System participant

"Our presenter did a great job of making everyone feel comfortable and gave us some great ideas to foster literacy." - Ann Heaton, Carroll County Public Library participant

"I will for sure do more bouncing songs with my baby and do more of the "stop" songs!" - Bobbi Jo Cave, Calvert Library participant

"I loved learning new songs and have already started using the songbook and slide prints daily- I keep them with my baby's books and we sing throughout the day." - Montgomery County Public Libraries participant

"Will definitely use the songs and tools provided throughout. I enjoyed the time in each class!" - Pamela Walker, Harford County Public Library / Judy Center participant

We visit the library every few weeks to get new books to read. We read a story before nap time and bedtime. We sing the wheels on the bus song any time she gets fussy, and it seems to calm her down. Both Mom and Dad do these activities!" - Josh Knepper, *In the Nest* follow-up survey response, Howard County Library System participant





In the Nest Workshop, Pilot 3, Harford County Public Libraries

In the Nest Workshop, Pilot 3, Howard County Library System

In the Nest Workshop, Pilot 3, Queen Anne's County Libraries



Facilitators from Pilots 1 (online, during COVID) Prince Georges County Library System



Before the Workshop Begins...
In the Nest, Pilot 3, Caroline County Public Libraries

