

2020 Best Practices in Early Literacy Award Guidelines

Program Overview:

The purpose of the Best Practices in Early Literacy Award is to recognize and encourage New Jersey's public libraries that currently provide exemplary literacy programs for children from birth to six years, their families and caregivers. Successful applicants are required to share program examples that show how their library established and/or expanded library programming for this targeted age population. The focus of this award is to share a library's program as a model for inspiration and adaptation by other library programs.

What Types of Libraries Are Eligible?

Libraries or branches of a library system may apply for this award. Libraries who have won this award twice before are ineligible to apply. Libraries can enter the same program from the previous year's applications.

How Do I Apply?

A program offered within the last two years preceding the award application deadline shall be eligible to receive the award. Applications will be accepted until 5 pm **Friday, March 6, 2020**. Up to four libraries may be selected.

What are the Selection Criteria?

- Relationship of the program to the purpose of the Award
- Demonstrated significance of program and its impact on the community
- Excellence, innovation and originality of program content and presentation

What Is the Award?

The New Jersey State Library Best Practices in Early Literacy Award is an annual award to a public library that has conducted an exemplary program or program series that fosters the literacy of young children from birth to age six and their families or caregivers. It consists of (1) a \$1,000 cash award; (2) a certificate; and (3) the promotion of the winner as a model program for other libraries in a printed and online booklet.

Who Are the Past Winners?

Please visit the following website for more information:

http://www.njstatelib.org/about/njsl_publications/ and click on Award Brochures, then under New Jersey State Library Awards (2017-2019 winners) or under Best Practices in Early Literacy (2014 - 2016 winners)

When will we find out if we have been selected to receive the award?

The winning libraries will be notified by **Friday, April 3, 2020**.

Where can I find more information?

Please contact:

Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist for Lifelong Learning | New Jersey State Library
Tel. 609-278-2640 ext.116, Email: srawlins@njstatelib.org