The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) along with Read On Arizona, Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Southwest Human Development, Make Way for Books and Unite for Literacy will develop and implement a systematic, high-impact infrastructure of family engagement that improves student academic achievement, empowers parents and increases the capacity of state agencies and organizations to provide high-quality family engagement supports for both parents and practitioners. This project will result in an improved continuum of evidence-based family engagement supports as well as twelve model demonstration “hubs” throughout the state that deliver evidence-based family literacy and engagement programming.

SERVICES OVERVIEW
- Parent/Family Training
- Tip Sheets/Printed Materials
- Teacher/Administrator Training & PD
- Learning Packets/Books
- Conference
- Webinars
- Videos
- Newsletter

ISSUES ADDRESSED
- Family Literacy/Early Literacy
- Financial Literacy
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- Distance Learning
- Social Justice/Equity/Cultural Responsiveness
- Safety
- Basic needs services/referrals (e.g. Food, Clothing, Shelter, Health Care)
- Mental health, social-emotional resource
- Access to technology – laptops, tablets, printers, etc.
- Access to high-speed internet
- Resources provided in languages other than English
- Family/Parent leadership
- Family engagement capacity building

SPECIFIC RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR
- Birth-to-Three
- Preschool/3-to-5
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- English Learners
- Children with Special Needs
- Foster Children
- Migrant Children
- Grandparents Raising Children
- Rural Communities
- Tribal Communities

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- During Year 2, a total of 1,190 parents participated in SFEC activities, exceeding the targeted number for Year 2 activities and services by more than 500 participants. A total of 1,092 parents attended a series of 8 weekly one-hour early literacy workshops with their infant to five-year-old children. 98 parents of K-3 students enrolled in place-based LEA family literacy demonstration programs, also committing to attend Adult Education and Parenting classes four days a week. They also joined their children weekly during classroom lessons as part of the program’s Parent and Children Together (PACT) Time. After schools closed, parents transferred lessons learned during PACT to their homes and continued to engage remotely with teachers to support their children’s learning. Program success indicates the validity of program strategies that have created an effective design for future Statewide Family Engagement Centers.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Project partners offered 25 series of early literacy family engagement workshops. The SFEC distributed over 30,000 books directly to families to promote children’s reading development and sustained family literacy routines in their homes. The books were accompanied by instructional sessions, interactive digital platforms, and other educational resources to guide parents and enhance their ability to model and support emerging literacies.

- Parents (80% - 99%) who participated in the birth-5 family literacy workshops and school-aged programs reported that they were prepared to work with their schools and service providers to effectively meet the learning needs of their children. Despite the unprecedented challenges for schools and families that had to adapt to remote learning, 80.5% of survey completers reported they made a positive difference in their child’s learning. Parents of school-age students reported that the family literacy program provided them with support for their immediate needs as they navigated the personal and educational changes instigated by the health crisis. They credited staff in the family literacy program for helping them to manage both personal stress and the stress of supporting their children’s virtual learning. They also described how program participation advanced their ability to navigate the technology requirements needed to support their children’s learning while they continued to engage in their own learning.

MAKING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

The AZ SFEC achieved nearly a ten-fold increase in the number of high-impact services provided to build a statewide infrastructure for systemic family engagement. ADE and project partners created over 100 new early childhood education and family engagement professional development opportunities accessible to all LEAs. Read on Arizona (in partnership with ADE, Make Way for Books, NCFL, Southwest Human Development, and Unite for Literacy) maintained the AZ SFEC web pages, which provide families with the knowledge, tools and resources needed to make informed decisions about their children’s education. Parents also assumed leadership roles on the Parent Advisory Committee to establish a comprehensive family engagement mission, vision, and action plan.

TOP WEB RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES:

- **Cultivating Readers** - Available in both English and Spanish, the Cultivating Readers Family Guide provides tips to grow reading skills from birth to age eight.  
  https://www.familieslearning.org/resources/familiesfamily-literacy/43#nav

- **Early Literacy Guide for Families** - This guide for families of children birth-3rd grade explains the importance of early literacy and how to help your child develop reading skills.  

- **Unite for Literacy** - Our projects with Unite for Literacy build home libraries and support families to develop a daily habit of reading, both of which are key factors in growing lifelong readers.  
  https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/