

Hatchlings

Maryland Pilot Evaluation Highlights



The Program

Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings is a unique offering under the *Mother Goose on the Loose*® umbrella. It consists of two separate programs, *Ready to Hatch* for expectant parents (single session) and *In the Nest* for parents with newborns (series of four workshop sessions). *Hatchlings* has been created with delivery options for inside the library and in community outreach settings. The programs are being piloted and evaluated for three years with selected library systems across the state of Maryland. As of December 31, 2022, *Hatchlings* has completed two pilot years with Carroll, Prince George, Calvert and Howard county libraries. Year three will expand to include a partnership among libraries and Judy Centers in seven additional counties across the state.



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

Program Resources

- A website of resources for *Hatchlings* programming mgol.net/programs/mgol-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 1 & 2

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

(Note: Follow-up data collection is still in process for Pilot 2.)

All parents (100 percent) surveyed (n=37) agreed that they learned and increased their confidence regarding supporting their baby's early literacy development (before and after birth) by participating in the *Ready to Hatch* workshop.

Preliminary follow-up surveys found that all parents (100 percent) reported using the information from the *Hatchlings* workshop and incorporating early literacy activities into their daily routines with their newborns. Furthermore, all parents (100 percent) 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

"Thanks, this was great for my mental health to get out and learn and gain confidence." - Howard County Library System workshop 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 when I am changing his diaper and I talk to him during tummy time in his baby gym. I am excited to have been part of this experience before my baby was born and I will be extra thrilled when I join the hatchlings in the 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

Data from *In the Nest*, Pilots 1 & 2

Hatchlings, In the Nest is a four-workshop program for parents and their newborns. Parents are asked to complete a workshop evaluation following their first and last sessions. A follow-up survey is also solicited several months after the series is completed. (Note: Follow-up data collection is still in process for Pilot 2.)

All parents (100 percent) surveyed (n = 61) agreed that they learned and increased their confidence regarding supporting their baby's early literacy development by participating in the *In the Nest* workshops. Another key finding was that all parents (100 percent) agreed that they planned to make use of library programs and materials with their children in the future.

Preliminary follow-up surveys found that all parents (100 percent) reported using the information from the *Hatchlings* workshops and incorporating early literacy activities into their daily routines with their babies. Furthermore, all parents (100 percent) stated that the activities had helped them bond with their babies and that they were doing all the early literacy activities modeled in the workshops frequently to daily with their children.

Quotes from Participants

"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 workshop 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 workshop 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



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