

Federal Definition of Family Literacy

Family literacy services are defined as:

“services that are of sufficient intensity in terms of hours, and of sufficient duration, to make sustainable changes in a family and that integrate all of the following activities:

- (A) Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.
 - (B) Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.
 - (C) Parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency.
 - (D) An age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.”
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Source: Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Even Start)
Head Start Act
Reading Excellence Act
Workforce Investment Act (Adult Education and Family Literacy Act)
Community Services Block Grant Act (CSBG)

Families and Literacy

Family literacy encompasses the ways parents, children and extended family members use literacy at home, at work, at school, and in their community life. In many areas, this term has developed broadly into the following two types of efforts.

Comprehensive Family Literacy Programs

provide intensive services that integrate the following four components:

Program	Childhood Education	Adult Basic Education	Parent Time	Parent and Child Interaction Time (PACT)
Comprehensive Family Literacy Programs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Family-Centered (or Family-Focused) Literacy programs

provide services focused on two or more of the four components:

Program	Childhood Education	Adult Basic Education	Parent Time	Parent and Child Interaction Time (PACT)
Family-Centered Childhood Ed.	Yes		Yes	Maybe
Family-Centered Adult Ed.		Yes	Yes	Maybe
Family-Centered Parent Ed.			Yes	Yes