

## Six Tips for Building a Professional Resource Library

1. Request a subscription to the journals published by professional and community organizations.
  - *Young Children* and *Teaching Young Children* from NAEYC
  - *Teaching Exceptional Children* and *Young Exceptional Children* from the Council for Exceptional Children
  - *Afterschool Today* from the National Afterschool Association
  - *After School Matters* from the Robert Bowne Foundation
  - *AfterWords* from the National Center for Quality Afterschool
2. Look for useful books. Throughout the Virtual Lab School you will find suggested readings. These books may be helpful additions to your resource library. You can also browse publishers' tables at professional conferences for the latest titles. Common publishers for child development titles are Brookes Publishing, Teachers College Press, Pearson, and Teaching Strategies.
3. Help staff find appropriate websites. Again, professional organizations are a good place to start. Many have links to important resources. For practical information, try:
  - Zero to Three (<https://www.zerotothree.org/>)
  - NAEYC (<https://www.naeyc.org/>)
  - Afterschool Alliance (<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>)
  - 4-H (<https://4-h.org>)
  - Afterschool.gov (<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/afterschool-programs>)
4. It can be very helpful to construct a lending library of child and youth literature, toys, games, and other materials. These types of materials can help staff turn an idea into reality. Staff can find the resources they need right away. This also helps streamline duplication of resources across a program.
5. Many curricula come with professional development resources. Keep any of these materials that staff members are not using in a centralized location, so they can be found when needed.
6. There are many ways to include cutting-edge video in your professional library. The Virtual Lab School is a free source of such video. You may also consider state resources like:
  - Illinois Early Learning Project <https://illinoisearlylearning.org/videos/>
  - Colorado Results Matter <https://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/rmvideoserries>
  - Empowering Preschool Quality <https://regentsctr.uni.edu/epq>

There are several subscription-based services as well. One example is the Teachstone video library based on the CLASS assessment for early childhood and school-age programs) or Videatives (for infant, toddler, and preschool programs that asks viewers to reflect on the knowledge, skills and learning that are displayed in video vignettes).