



Supercharged Storytimes Learner Guide

Module Five: Supercharged Storytimes Through an Equity Lens

Use this learner guide as an anchor to support your experience of the Supercharged Storytimes self-paced course. As a **companion to the video recordings**, print a copy of this guide to jot down notes, participate in activities, and use as a basis for reflections on your learning. There is great learning value in writing things with pen and paper—it tunes your focus and helps the brain synthesize the important points to remember.

Getting to Equity

Libraries aspire to connect with all children in their communities to help them reach reading proficiency and to find success in school and life. But simply promoting storytimes to new communities doesn't necessarily have the desired result of participation. Families need to feel centered in the library's offerings and welcomed to the library space. Applying an equity lens to storytime programming can lead to meaningful connections.

- ◆ Did you listen to [Ralph Smith's inspiring words](#)? The [Campaign for Grade Level Reading](#) is a powerful advocate for early literacy for all.

Discovery

Meaningful discovery is about really listening to and learning from the communities in your library's service area.

This module covers how to:

- ◆ Define equity
- ◆ Demonstrate knowledge of best practices for community engagement
- ◆ Assess community needs and identify opportunities for collaborative partnerships

Reflection

"Gaps are not deficits, they are opportunities to expand your library's reach and build collaborative relationships." - CiKeithia Pugh

How does thinking about equity gaps as *opportunities* help you and your library address the gaps?

Definitions

- ◆ *Equity*—Individualized strategies designed to address historical barriers to access
- ◆ *Inclusion*—Bringing traditionally under-represented individuals and communities into processes and activities (sharing power)
- ◆ *Diversity*—The ways in which people differ; also includes different ideas, perspectives, and values

ACTIVITY

What can I influence? As an exercise, take a look at your calendar.

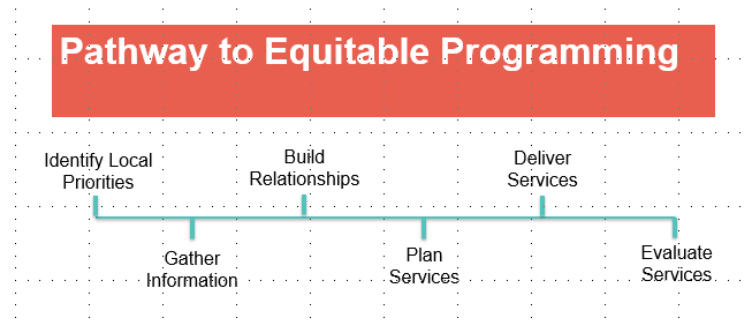
- ◆ How did you spend your time this week?
- ◆ Where did you go?
- ◆ Who did you meet with? Did you engage a new audience or community?

When you're ready, *resume the recording*.

Building Equitable Relationships in the Community

Refer to the [Pathway to Equitable Programming](#) as CiKeithia applies the steps to a program from The Seattle Public Library.

Jot down any things that might apply to your library.



Welcoming Spaces and Collections

Turn your equity lens toward your library's physical space to ensure that it is welcoming to new visitors.

- ◆ Bring your completed [Library Walk-through Observation Checklist](#) to the video recording. If you haven't completed it yet, *pause the recording* now and take time to fill out your responses.

Looking to include diverse books in your storytimes? Use the [Inclusive Collections for Supercharged Storytimes Handout](#) linked on the course module page to locate recommended titles.

NOTES

Use this page to write notes, questions, and reflections on what you are learning.