



Program Highlights

Funding from First 5 Placer County supports these efforts:

- ◆ **8,072** Informational Brochures distributed
- ◆ **69,458** Web page visitors
- ◆ **262** Child Care Providers receive the Ready to Succeed Newsletter for Professionals
- ◆ More than **1,500** children are reached through newsletter subscribers
- ◆ Nearly **400** parents are served through outreach efforts

READY TO SUCCEED PROGRAM EARLY LITERACY AND SCHOOL READINESS

Ready to Succeed is an early literacy and school readiness program designed for parents of children birth through age five. Parents, as children's first and most important teachers, have the opportunity to help their children succeed in school and reach their fullest potential in life. Our main goal is to provide parents with the knowledge, skills, support, and enthusiasm necessary to help with their children's early literacy development and school readiness.

We reinforce that children learn best through their everyday experiences with the people they love and trust and when the learning is fun.

Additionally, Ready to Succeed aims to assist early childhood educators, extended family members, and the community in valuing and embracing their role in fostering children's development and future academic success.

Ready to Succeed is supported in part through funding from First 5 Placer County Children & Families Commission.

- *Website ~ with the high number of parents using technology in their search for information, numerous web pages containing up-to-date, research-based information have been created. New this year is our presence on Facebook™ and Twitter™ as another outreach method for families.*
- *Informational Brochures ~ parents and others select from seventeen brochures on topics relating to early literacy development, school readiness, and brain development.*
- *Ready to Succeed Newsletter for Professionals ~ providing research-based information and published bi-monthly for those caring for children outside the home.*





Ready to Succeed Web Pages

Issue

Parents need easy access to current, research-based information about early literacy development, school readiness, and brain development. Many parents seek out information that enables them to foster their child's development.

What Was Done

Ready to Succeed has created 19 separate categories of information on the website. The latest web page addition is *Literacy Every Day* ~ which offers beneficial ways of interacting with children on a daily basis that will foster their early learning.

Hundreds of pages of information for parents and others are included on these topics:

- *It All Begins with a Great Book*: literature-based activities for parents to do with their children.
- *Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten: An Online Tutorial*: parents can respond to questions regarding their knowledge of school readiness and be given feedback based on their responses.
- *Story Book Party*: learn how simple and fun it is to create a birthday party based on a children's book.
- *Types of Books to Read with Children*: explanations of the different book genres and suggested books to read in each category.
- *Show Your Love ~ Share a Book!*: information about the joy in sharing a story with a child.
- *Selecting Books for Young Children*: how to select books for children.
- *Helping Children Deal with Trauma*: resource page with tips for helping children and links to other professional agencies.
- *Facebook™ and Twitter™*: connecting visitors to our social networking pages on the web.

Promote Your Child's Literacy Development Each and Every Day!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Today read a fairy tale together!	After you read a story talk about it with your child.	Look at a book's illustrations and make up your own story instead of reading the words.	Try a new healthy recipe today so your child can watch you read for information.	Tell your family's story by looking through photo albums.	Change the words to "Twinkle Little Star" to make up a song about to do hair.	Read a counting book together today!
After reading a book make a paper sack puppet for one of the characters and retell the story.	Remember when you read together today that children who grow up being read to score up to test books and reading.	Make up your own story using your folded hands for the pages.	Practice writing letters by tracing shapes in washable glue or coffee grounds.	Use different voices for different characters as you read - it makes the book come alive!	Read a non-fiction book together!	Take turns with your child in reading songs, such as letters from memory, or clothing items.
Read a participation book with your child today!	Ask your child to look for specific letters in the text as you read the story.	Read a predictable story together!	Talk with your child as you go about your day. Say what you are doing and why.	Find a cozy place to read together and call it your reading spot!	Play with the sounds of language using rhyming and guessing games.	Make up your own story by having each family member tell a sentence or more.
Run your fingers under the words of the story as you read them.	Read an alphabet story together!	When you read together today remember that you are making a connection that your child will remember all his life.	Look for a way to enter any day life to the story you read - like this dog in the story but a dog who is you know who has a dog?	Visit your local library today and check out books for the whole family.	Sing a song - it promotes your child's language development.	Take a walk through your neighborhood and talk about the colors and shapes of
Read a rhyming story together!	Play dolls. Say a series of 2, 3, or 4 letters or numbers and have your child repeat them.	Children together as you read - it fosters your child's sense of security and belonging.	Today read a wordless book together!	Reading aloud is the single most important way to ensure your child's future success.	Read a book or magazine for pleasure generalizing to your child can be fun and enjoyable.	Do a finger play with your child today like "The Itchy Itchy Spider"

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Impact

The *Ready to Succeed* web pages had a total of 69,458 visitors this year. Each year this number grows dramatically. The high volume of hits indicates that visitors are seeking the information offered within the pages.



Ready to Succeed Informational Brochures

Issue

Research indicates that children are starting school less prepared than in previous years and that children are lacking in basic literacy skills. Parent education and opportunities for using language skills have been identified as potentially critical factors in tackling this issue.

What Was Done

To address this matter informally, *Ready to Succeed* created 17 informational brochures for parents, child care providers, and others who have impact with children 0-5 years old. Brochures have been requested for distribution by the Placer County and Lincoln Libraries, Placer Community Action Council, child care centers, family child care providers, family resource centers, doctor and dental offices, and other agencies working with families of young children. Informational brochures have also been distributed at many community events within the county. A PDF version of each brochure is also available online for our website visitors.

The following is a list of the informational brochures written by *Ready to Succeed* and the quantity of each in the more than 8,072 distributed this year:

- Kindergarten? Is My Child Ready? Am I?
- Sing a Song...Say a Rhyme
- Learning Tips for Busy Families
- Reading Aloud With Your Child
- Talk, Talk, Talk With Me
- Healthy Brain Development
- Turn Your Television Off And...
- Early Literacy Stages
- Before Once Upon a Time
- Beyond Happily Ever After
- Catch a New Book Category
- Reading With Infants
- Tips for Reading to Toddlers
- Reading With Your Preschooler
- Tips for Bedtime Reading
- Reading Wordless Books



Brochures were distributed at the Gold Country Fair and PCOE's annual Health & Safety.

Impact

The high volume of brochure requests and numbers distributed indicate that people are seeking the information. And because they are self-selecting, they're more likely to act on the suggestions included and make changes in their interaction with their children.



Ready to Succeed Newsletter for Professionals

Issue

While we know that parents are a child's first and most important teacher, an increasing number of children 0-5 are in care outside the home on a regular basis. It is critical that those who are caring for these children have access to current, research-based information on early literacy development, school readiness, and early brain development. With this information they are better able to plan activities that foster healthy growth and development in young children.

What Was Done

Ready to Succeed writes a bi-monthly newsletter for those who work with children ages 0-5. Contents include: articles on child development; recommended book lists; age-appropriate, literature-based art activities; songs; finger plays; poems; games; nutritious snack recipes; and current events.

The newsletter has a worldwide subscriber list, with some receiving their newsletter online and some in the mail.

Impact

The newsletter subscribers impact more than 1,500 children in Placer County.

A summary of the results from an evaluation conducted earlier this year indicates the following:

- 100% Reading most or all of the newsletter.
- 96% Are sharing the newsletter with other adults.
- 78% Are using the newsletter as a reference.
- 100% Are using it as an activity resource.
- 78% Are incorporating more literacy activities into their programs.

On a 5 point scale, child care providers indicated the following:

- 4.41 Literacy development knowledge as increased due to reading the newsletter.
- 4.30 Providers feel better able to support children in their early literacy development as a result of reading the newsletter.

University of California Cooperative Extension

Ready to Succeed

An Early Literacy and School Readiness Newsletter for Professionals

May / June 2010
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Early Literacy: 10 Views to Contemplate

What we know about early literacy is expanding: new research, new reports, new standards, new public policies, all leading to more information on what works in supporting children's early literacy development. Contemplating new information helps refresh our teaching as well as provides current knowledge and focused direction for our work. In building effective early literacy programming, consider the 10 early literacy views presented below.

- 1. Young children need emotionally supportive adults and environments in order to have success in early literacy.** Quality early literacy programming starts with nurturing adults who understand behavior and child development. This includes implementing learning environments that focus on safety, a sense of well being, and promoting a sense of interest and wonder. Emotionally supportive care and learning must be parallel with quality early literacy programming.
- 2. Start Early.** Many adults think literacy experiences should wait until school age or preschool settings, but literacy development (as well as overall development) begins at birth and continues throughout the child's life. Children with rich, early experiences in language and literacy are building strong foundations to learning. Times spent babbling with a baby, holding a child and reading or singing, or showing children a shopping list, are all pathways to learning. While these may not seem like monumental educational strategies, over time they are helping to build strong experiences for learning.
- 3. Use effective curriculum that fits your program's needs.** Whether the early literacy curriculum is one that is purchased or independently created, the curriculum needs to be well researched, effective, and show measurable outcomes. A good literacy program is based on the needs of the children, the families, the teachers, and the program. Careful, comprehensive assessments (with special attention to culture, family, and English language)

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