Ohio Ready to Read

Ohio Ready to Read is a joint initiative of the Ohio Library Council and State Library of Ohio. Ohio Ready to Read educates Ohio's families on the importance of early childhood literacy through resources and activities available at Ohio's public libraries.

WHY EARLY LITERACY IS IMPORTANT:

The 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress reported 28% of Ohio fourth graders fail to achieve basic levels of reading achievement. The percentage of unsuccessful readers is even higher in low-income families and ethnic minority groups.

The National Early Literacy Panel's 2009 report, "Developing Early Literacy," finds that reading and writing skills that are developed in the years from birth to age 5 have a clear and consistently strong relationship with later literacy skills.

Since then, a wide array of research continues to demonstrate that interactions between adults and children profoundly impact the development of these skills. The more parents and caregivers talk and listen to young children, the greater the children's potential to acquire language, vocabulary, and background knowledge.

Reading together with children is one of the most powerful ways to develop early literacy skills. Reading aloud to infants and toddlers promotes language skills in even the youngest children.

WE PROVIDE MANY SERVICES AT NO COST TO LIBRARIES:

These services help Ohio's libraries to share early literacy information with their communities, develop early childhood library programs that promote literacy, and teach parents and other significant adults how to enhance their children's skills.

- ORTR trainers available to present the Early Literacy 101 workshop for library staff and early childhood professionals.

- Ohio Early Literacy Crosswalk to help librarians and early childhood professionals understand how library-based, early education, and Head Start frameworks relate to one another.

- Student Learning resources to inform librarians about changes in education policy and to empower librarians to contribute to the developing reading proficiency of K-3rd graders.

- An online library of resources, downloadable display templates, and circulating kits, available for libraries to use to facilitate their storytimes, outreach activities, and other early literacy programming.

TO LEARN MORE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: **www.ohreadytoread.org**

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