



Ohio Ready to Read

Ohio Ready to Read helps public librarians and library specialists to educate Ohio's families on the importance of early childhood literacy.

WHY EARLY LITERACY IS IMPORTANT

Early literacy is everything children know about reading and writing before they can read or write. Early literacy begins with parents, guardians, and caregivers: the primary adults in a child's life.

Children who lack strong early literacy skills start out behind and have difficulty catching up in school. According to the Ohio Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, only 36.5% of children entered kindergarten in 2023 with all the skills, knowledge, and abilities needed to handle kindergarten-level instruction.

The most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (2024) reported that 38% of Ohio fourth graders performed below the NEAP Basic level in reading, which indicates they struggle with comprehending and successfully using what they read. The percentage of struggling readers is even higher in low-income families and marginalized communities.

A wide array of research demonstrates that interactions between adults and children profoundly impact the development of early literacy skills. The more parents and caregivers read to, talk with, and listen to young children from infancy, the greater the children's future ability to learn and succeed in school.

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 caregivers ways to support their children's learning.

- Day By Day Ohio Family Literacy Calendar featuring fun learning activities for every day of the year.
- Trainers available to present the Early Literacy 101 workshop for library staff online or in-person.
- Tips, techniques, and tools to integrate early literacy into storytimes and other library activities.
- A student learning toolkit to inform librarians about PreK-12 education policy and practice, including library-oriented content on the science of reading. This toolkit reflects how librarians contribute to the developing reading proficiency of school-age children.
- Links to research, advocacy, grant opportunities, best practices, news stories, partnership opportunities, and other good ideas to support early literacy.

LEARN MORE

www.ohreadytoread.org



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References: Ohio Kindergarten Readiness Assessment data: see Ohio School Report Cards, reportcard.education.ohio.gov; National Assessment of Educational Progress: nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard

*Ohio Library Council is a non-governmental public library membership organization.