



In an effort to increase the number of children prepared to learn, read and succeed the South Sound Reading Foundation exists to ensure that every child is read with and, or is reading 20 minutes a day from birth. Reading just 20 minutes a day promotes the healthy brain development, family bonding and school readiness all children need to succeed.

We do this important work through nine programs that:

- Educate and remind children, youth and families about the importance of reading and
- Strive to get books into every home and into the hands of every child so they have the tools they need to read and succeed.
- Last year we distributed over 34,000 books to area kids and families and with each book we promote the important reading message.

We partner with school districts, health care facilities, social service agencies and other community members to provide the following literacy programs in Mason and Thurston Counties:

Literacy Outreach		
Program	Program description	Ages /number served
The Literacy Book Van	This Book Van visits low-income housing units, schools, community events and rural areas to: promote the READ DAILY message with read marketing materials, and distribute free books to children.	Focused age range is prenatal to 5, but we serve 6-18 as well. We distributed over 24,500 books in 2007-08, and made 187 visits.
Literacy Outreach for At-Risk Kids	SSRF partners with local schools, Thurston County Food Bank, and the Homeless Backpack Inc., to get books in to the hands of homeless and hungry kids.	Focus: All school aged homeless kids. Many are reluctant readers excited about the free books. Approximately 5000 books are distributed annually.

Family Education		
Program	Program description	Ages /number served
Family Education	SSRF Provides Family Literacy Programming. We visit parenting groups, support groups, workshops, literacy nights, etc to provide brief or extensive presentations or discussions on the importance of reading.	Focused age: Birth to 3, we distribute more than 2500 books/literacy packets annually (50+ a week).
Books for Babies	Books for Babies gets board books, information on reading baby/ brain development, and other literacy information to families leaving the hospital with their newborn.	Focused age: Birth to 3, we distribute more than 2500 books/literacy packets annually (50+ a week).
Born to Read	Born to Read works with pediatricians, home health nurses and midwives to gets a new board book and literacy/brain development information to mostly low-income families with babies.	Focus age: 6mnth-3year old children and their families. We distribute approx. 1500 books and literacy brochures, annually.

Literacy Bookshelves	SSRF stock bookshelves at low-income agencies with free books and literacy materials promoting reading and the 20 minute message.	Focus age: birth -5 but books are available for older kids and young adults as well. We distribute approximately 800 books a year.
Connect with Me	SSRF provides books and literacy materials to incarcerated parents.	Focused age: All children of incarcerated parents.

A Reading Community		
Program	Program description	Ages /number served
Adopt a Day Care	SSRF partners with ECAP Head Start, childcare facilities to provide story times, literacy presentations/ information and books to children and parents.	Focus age: 3-5, this program makes approx. 25 visits a month and serves between 180-210 children.
Read with Me	SSRF partners with local books stores and other business to conduct story times and promote reading with children.	Focus age: 3-8, this program currently makes approx. 6 visits a month and serves 50 kids.

Literacy Facts & Figures

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." - Fredrick Douglass

Some Startling Facts:

- 1/3 of children entering kindergarten know fewer than five letters of the alphabet. *The 90% Reading Goal*
- 1/2 of kindergarten students in Washington are not "school ready." *Washington Learns Early Learning Council*
- Studies show that 75% will never catch up! *The 90% Reading Goal*
- 2/3 of all students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare.
— *National Center for Education Statistics*

Why 20 Minutes A Day?

- Schools deliver 85% of curriculum using printed words via books, display boards and computers.
- Reading is the most fundamental skill a child will use during his or her 12-20 years as a student.
- Children need **at least 600 hours** of pre-literacy experience from birth to kindergarten (20 minutes a day!) to be ready to succeed in school.

Families are a child's first, best teacher.

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Promoting Literacy, Creating Potential