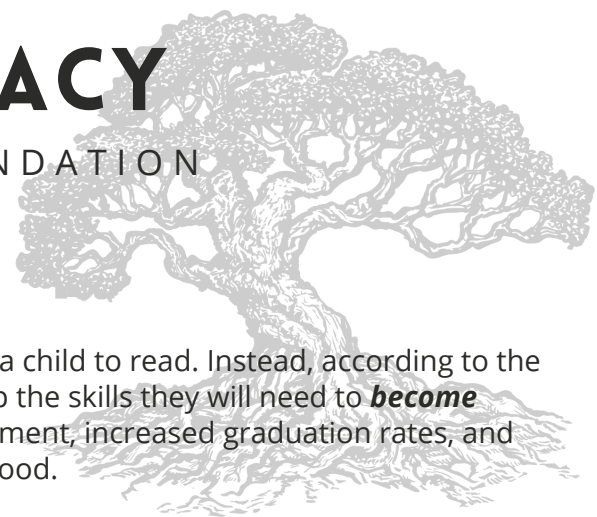


EARLY LITERACY

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION



WHAT IS LITERACY?

Contrary to popular belief, **literacy** does not mean the act of teaching a child to read. Instead, according to the Lexington Public Library, early literacy “means helping children develop the skills they will need to **become** successful readers.” Early literacy plays a vital role in academic achievement, increased graduation rates, and overall productivity and quality of life as children transition into adulthood.

Although there is a growing demand for advanced literacy skills in the workplace, this is often matched with increasing barriers to early literacy development, including limited access to printed reading materials, the challenges of learning English as a second language, habitual absence from school, poverty, and more.

Embark on this quest to learn about literacy and how you can make a difference.

DISCOVER

Complete these three activities:

- Make a list of the top 5 most common barriers to early literacy development in the United States.
- Visit the National Center for Education Statistics and research low literacy statistics in both your state and specific county.
- Research 5-10 resources in your area that provide free access to early literacy materials for local families and children.

CONNECT

Required: Discover your own reading level by taking the MacMillan Readers Level Test

(<http://www.macmillanreaders.com/tests/level-test>)

Complete at least two of these activities:

- Compare your area’s literacy statistics with the national average. Is it higher or lower? Make a list of possible causes for the differences or similarities in number.
- Visit your local public library to discover what literacy resources it offers members of the community.
- Interview an elementary-level teacher from a school in your area to discover specific barriers to early literacy and ways they believe that community members and families can help.

ACT

Required: Create a TikTok or an Instagram Story, telling others what they can do to support childhood literacy in their communities.

Choose and complete one of these activities:

- Research early literacy programs in your area and choose one where you can volunteer.
- Visit <https://littlefreelibrary.org/build/>, select a blueprint, and build a little library with your family for your own community.
- Contact local businesses and ask them to sponsor or host a community book drive.
- Volunteer to tutor younger students at your local elementary school.
- Donate some of your own books to local libraries or classrooms in need.

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FOR MORE QUESTS AND ACTIVITIES

