Agenda

- Literacy Facts and Figures
- Reading Overview
- Literacy Programming Best Practices
“Why Does Literacy Matter?”
“How Many People Are Illiterate?

- How to define
- How to measure
- K-12 test scores
- Graduation rates
- NAAL studies
“Why Can’t People Read?”
“Why Does It Matter?”
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Literacy Through the Lifespan

Birth

Adulthood
Literacy Through the Lifespan

Birth

Adulthood
More than 90% of brain development occurs between birth and age 5.

At the age of 3, children from high-income families have double the vocabulary of children from low-income families.

More than one-third of American children enter kindergarten without the basic language skills they will need to learn to read.
Children learn most of their reading skills between kindergarten and third grade.

27% of Minnesota third graders are not reading at grade level.

Students who struggled with reading in third grade comprise 88% of high school dropouts.
Literacy through the Lifespan: Middle School

- By middle school “reading” includes skills such as understanding and evaluate texts, providing relevant details, and supporting inferences.
- Kids are expected to apply their literacy skills independently.
- Nationally, 60% of middle school students are reading below grade level.
Literacy through the Lifespan:
High School

- 81% of high school students in Minnesota graduate.
- 59% of Minneapolis high school students graduate.
- Unemployment rate of adults without high school diplomas is 12% vs 4.1%.
- Average adult without a high school diploma makes $11,000 a year less than one with and $36,000 a year less than an adult with a bachelor's degree.
Literacy through the Lifespan: Post Secondary

- 85% of current jobs and 90% of new jobs in occupations with high growth and high wages will require at least some post-secondary education.
- 58% of freshmen enrolling in college graduate within six years.
- 17% of students who take a developmental reading class in college ultimately graduate.
Literacy through the Lifespan: Adulthood

- Nationally, 43% of adults are at the basic or below basic level of literacy.
- 60% of prisoners are functionally illiterate.
- Three quarters of food stamp recipients perform in the lowest two NAAL literacy levels.
- American businesses lose more than $60 billion in productivity each year to employee’s lack of basic skills.
- The biggest indicator of a child’s school success is parents’ education level.
So...

- How will the work you do this year impact the issue of illiteracy?
What is Reading?

Reading =

Decoding symbols in order to understand a message in order to do something.
Five Components of Reading

- Phonological Awareness
- Alphabetics
- Vocabulary
- Fluency
- Comprehension
Literacy Best Practice #1

- Dosage = frequency + duration

- No agreed upon threshold.

- Effective literacy programming is matched to the “dosage” of instruction.
It Takes a Village...

Children are taught to read in school.

But, they only spend about 20 percent of their waking time in school, which means that home and out-of-school time programs play a crucial role in supporting students as they become proficient readers and writers.
Types of Literacy Interventions

- Classroom push in
- Classroom pull out
- After school literacy tutoring
- After school literacy “mentoring”
- Homework helper
- Literacy enrichment
- Other
Literacy Best Practice #2

- The research shows that the most successful tutors are those who directly support the primary instruction the students receive from their teachers.
- Academic alignment between school and tutoring programs (and home)
- Instructive vs. Supportive
Have the mindset that your program exists to support what the kids are learning in school.

Choose materials/curricula that align with what happens during the school day.

Look for ways to facilitate the connection between school and afterschool programming.

Look for ways to facilitate the connect between programming and family.
Students’ oral language background will impact their success at reading and writing.
Reading is more than sounding out words.
Literacy Best Practice #5

- Reading is more than sounding out words
- Phonemic Awareness
- Alphabetics
- Vocabulary
- Fluency
- Comprehension
- Prior knowledge and experience
Best Practice In Action

- Include instruction in all five areas in your programming
- Alphabetics instruction should be considered supportive
- Don’t neglect vocabulary and comprehension
- Reading practice and comprehension checking make for great reading programming