



Read to Succeed Buffalo
It all starts here.

Reading is Power

"Empowering parents to raise strong readers"

Quarterly: Summer 2011

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About Read to Succeed Buffalo

Read to Succeed Buffalo's mission is to improve student achievement by measurably improving language and literacy skills in children from birth to age 8 to ensure a successful start in school. To learn more about Read to Succeed and to find useful information for parents of young children, go to:
<http://www.readtosucceedbuffalo.org>.

To our
Parents:

You are your
child's first and
most important
teacher.

Your child will
follow your
example.

Being involved
with your child's
education will
make a world of
difference to
your child's
success in
school!

Author Spotlight: Mem Fox

Mem Fox is Australia's most highly regarded children's picture-book author. Her book *Possum Magic*, the best selling children's book ever in Australia. She grew up on a mission in Zimbabwe, Africa, and later migrated back to Australia to pursue her two passions: teaching and writing.

Fox has written over thirty-five picture books for young children and five non-fiction books for adults, including the best-selling *Reading Magic*, aimed at parents of very young children.

Fox has dedicated much of her life to teaching parents and teachers about how children learn to read and write. Her zest and knowledge makes her one of the most highly regarded literacy consultants in the world.

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes released in 2009, has been a big hit in the United States and Fox is hoping that her latest book, *A Giraffe in the Bath*, is geared to children age four and older, will also be loved.



Jump Start the New School Year!

Help your children make the transition to a new school year easier - whether he is starting at a new school or childcare program or if he has a new teacher or classroom this year. Consider these strategies:



1. Set regular bed times and wake-up routines to ensure there are no sleepy-heads going to school!
2. Breakfast Counts! A full tummy helps children learn and enjoy their day.
3. Be positive. Children take cues from adults in their lives, so if your child is feeling anxious, your enthusiasm will help them feel more comfortable in a new setting.
4. Walk your child to his classroom and help him get familiar with his new surroundings and new teachers to ease the transition.
5. Ask questions. Show interest in your child's day by asking questions.
6. Read together! Daily story time at home provides quality time together and helps your child build important literacy skills.
7. Hold a conversation with your child's teacher or childcare provider to see how your child is adjusting to school or the childcare site.

Kindergarten Readiness



The joy of learning! Owen Hearst is in the Family Literacy Program and is excited about winning the "Site Word Bingo" game.

Understanding what is expected of your child when entering Kindergarten can help ensure a successful start to school! Make sure your child knows their full name to include their first, middle and last name.

According to the Buffalo Public School's Early Childhood Department, some of the skills children need when entering Kindergarten include:

1. Recognizing letters of the alphabet
2. Knowing words for colors and numbers
3. Having phonemic awareness (rhyming, songs, poems, letter sounds)
4. Having print awareness (understanding that grouping letters will form words)
5. Being able to identify beginning sounds
6. Listening skills including following directions, following routines and engaging in conversation
7. Emergent writing skills (inventive spelling)

In addition to specific literacy skills, children should also be able to communicate about things they need or want, share and take turns, have the ability to pay attention and sit still, as well as to be curious and enthusiastic about new activities!

Here are some ideas to build a culture of literacy at home!

	<p>Read to your child! Books are great and so are street signs, menus, and cereal boxes for reading and identifying letters and words!</p>
	<p>Point out letters in your every day surroundings and ask your child to do the same.</p>
	<p>Provide paper and pencils to your child and encourage her to write her letters and practice writing her name.</p>
	<p>Teach your child how to read, hold and take care of books.</p>
	<p>Ask your child to guess what happens before you finish a book to increase comprehension, motivation and interest.</p>

And, let's not forget to have a little fun by practicing rhyming words and common sight words such as *you*, *me*, *I*, and *the*.

Learning Continues All Summer Long! (Family Literacy Program)

Just because school is out doesn't mean learning should stop! Children and their families in the Literacy Zone had the chance to continue improving their literacy skills through Read to Succeed's 6-week Family Literacy Program and all did a wonderful job! The program was held on Saturdays in July and August at the Martha Mitchell Community Center.

A key part of the program was the active participation of a parent or guardian of each child enrolled. Each week, adults were able to take advantage of workshops that were held on subjects ranging from choosing the right child care provider, emergency preparedness, special education overview, creating a culture of literacy at home. Parent involvement also made it more fun for the children and provided parents with tips to use at home to keep their children interested in reading.

All the children enrolled were able to continue learning throughout the summer months and were honored, along with their parents at a special recognition ceremony at the completion of the program on August 20th.

Six participants did exceptionally well by completing the Mayor's Summer Reading Challenge. Each one will be eligible to win great prizes as a result of reading seven or more books and completing summaries for each book. Teachers and volunteers at the Family Literacy Program helped the children to complete their summaries to ensure they were eligible for prizes. Congratulations to all who participated!

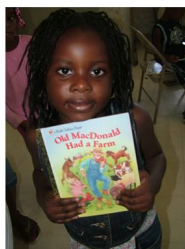
Congratulations

Mayor Brown Summer Reading Challenge

Children from the Family Literacy Program have read 7+ books and are entered into the 2011 Summer Reading Challenge.



**Imar
Boria**



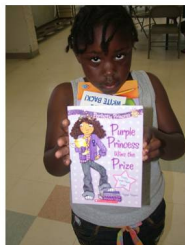
**Jolieparadis
Kasama**



**Noah
Robinson**



**Theresa
Banks**



**Tina
Fayson**



**Aiyanna
Woodruff**

Article: Early Literacy Has an Impact

Research shows that children who start behind in school tend to stay behind leading to poor academic achievement, high drop out rates and often a lifetime of struggle. In Buffalo, the problem is significant as nearly 4 out of every 10 children do not have the skills needed to begin Kindergarten successfully.

Giving children a fighting chance to succeed in school and improving literacy skills is critical in our community. By increasing language and literacy skills in young children, we can improve their odds of succeeding and finishing school. By ignoring the issue, poor student achievement and low literacy skills are likely to lead to higher drop-out rates, increased social challenges including juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, and drug and alcohol abuse; and will leave teens with few marketable skills, adding to our city's already high poverty rate.

We know that children are born with the tools they need to succeed and that every parent wants the best for their child. Read to Succeed Buffalo is dedicated to empowering parents to provide the best start for their children and to provide children with the resources they need for a strong start in Kindergarten.

For more information, please contact Read to Succeed Buffalo at 716-843-8895 or visit our website to learn more about what we are doing in the community – www.ReadToSucceedBuffalo.org.

Summer Story Time a Huge Success!



Story Time, a partnership of Read to Succeed Buffalo, WNED-TV and the Buffalo and Erie County Library, was a big draw for more than 800 children this summer! Special appearances by Super Why and other PBS kids characters added more fun to the program and kept children interested in reading over the summer!

Great Websites for Kids!

Most kids love to play on the computer so make their time on-line worthwhile! Check out some of these great sites for kids:

<http://www.playkidsgames.com/>

Free online kids games for kids ages Pre-K through middle school that are both fun and educational.

<http://pbskids.org/>

Games, shows and videos from educational television leader PBS. Check out the Curious George Section. Your child will love it!

<http://www.fisher-price.com>

Infant, toddler and preschool games that make learning fun!

<http://funschool.kaboose.com>

Activities and games for kids, parents and teachers.

<http://www.netsmartzkids.org>

An awesome interactive site where children learn about internet safety!

Be part of a World Record for Reading

Be part of a national movement to highlight the importance of reading and early childhood education by being part of the 2011 Read for the Record!



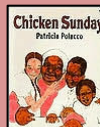

Last year, more than 2 million people across the U.S. helped break the world record for the most people reading the same book on the same day including 12,000 from Western New York! The event is held each year to draw attention to the importance of early literacy.

Working with Jumpstart, a national early education organization, Read to Succeed is looking for child care centers, schools, community groups and families to participate in Read for the Record on October 6, 2011. This year, we will attempt to break the record reading Anna Dewdney's *Llama Llama Red Pajama*.

It's easy – all it takes is signing up by contacting Deborah Porter at 843-8895 or at PorterD@rtsb.org and making time on October 6 to read this year's book.

Join us to break the record!

Recommended Children's Book List

Teaching Values	
	<i>Learning Self-Respect</i> Arthur's Nose by Mark Brown
	<i>Learning Acceptance</i> Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
	<i>Learning Honesty</i> Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto
	<i>Learning Friendship</i> Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco
	<i>Learning Responsibility</i> Just a Mess by Mercer Mayer

Are you looking for childcare? Read to Succeed Buffalo can HELP...

Read to Succeed works with childcare providers in the Ken-Bailey community to give you quality affordable childcare close to home. Project CARE providers receive materials, coaching and training from RTSB Early Childhood Specialist. This extra support improves the childcare environment so your child is learning the literacy and social skills critical for success in Kindergarten and beyond.

"Parents are astounded by the progress they see in their children...they're absorbing everything!" Cynthia Russell, Cyns Heavenly Angels Quality Child Care.

For more information
call Project CARE today at 843-8895!