

Reading & Positive Youth Development

Problem Only 1 in 3 pre-school-aged children is read to routinely.
 (Young, KT, Davis K, Schoen C, et al: Listening to Parents. A national survey of parents with young children. Arch. Pediatr Adolesc Med 1998;152:255)*



➔ 16% of parents of children aged 3 and younger do not read with their children at all*

➔ 29% of Gaston County's adults are functionally illiterate

Solution Gaston Literacy Council provides multiple learning opportunities at every stage of a child's life.

Gaston Families Read

B.A.B.Y.® -- for expectant and new moms

Motheread® -- for parents, grandparents, guardians & caregivers of children aged 2 - 8



"I wanted ... to learn how to help Hunter and me. I listen in class and then I do it at home. The best thing I've learned is to take time, sit down and read to them. I didn't do that with my own children, but I do with my grandkids now."
 (Pat, Motheread participant)

Reading Soul Mates (RSM)

"Children receiving one-on-one tutoring set up by community groups have shown greater progress than children without that support." (Howard Lee, N.C. School Board Chairman)

"If you help young children learn to read...(t)hen they can be anything they want to be."
 (Antionette Tate, 2nd grade RSM)



➔ Children who are not read to frequently during the first years of life are less likely to learn to read on schedule.*

➔ 43% of Gaston's kindergartners enter school unprepared to learn.
 (United Way of Gaston County Community Needs Assessment)

➔ Low reading scores predict school withdrawal (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2006)

➔ The 2007 drop out rate in Gaston County was 6.3% & remains higher than the state rate of 5.24%.
 (NC Department of Public Instruction)

➔ 67% of prison inmates are high school dropouts (Dropout Nation, 2006).

➔ 70% of the inmates in state and federal prisons read below the 8th grade level (Literacy Behind Prison Walls, 1994)

Teen Tutoring

- ✓ For teens lacking basic skills necessary to be successful in mainstream classes
- ✓ Often referred by runaway shelters or the juvenile court system
- ✓ Not uncommon to serve a parent and child in the same classes



One student earned her GED
 Four others were referred to the college for the official exam
 One student got a job

Teens currently make up approximately 30% of our pre-GED program



READING ALOUD TO CHILDREN IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY THAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP THE UNDERSTANDING AND SKILLS NECESSARY TO SUCCEED AS READERS AND STUDENTS.

(Wells, 1985; Bus, van Ijzendoorn & Pellegrini, 1995)