

FACTS:

- **In grades K-3 children learn to read. From (4th) grade on, children read to learn.**
- **Schools do not create the achievement gap. 100% of the achievement gap in reading and 67% of the gap in math originates in the home before a student's first day of kindergarten.**
- **Skilled readers do well in our society. Unskilled readers struggle in our society. They struggle every time they come in contact with print.**
- **Parents who read twenty minutes a day with their children from birth have a kindergartner who has received 608 hours (365 days divided by 3 (20 minutes is one third of an hour) = 121.6 hours a year times 5 years - 608 hours) of literacy experience prior to kindergarten.**
- **The average child in an affluent school comes to kindergarten with 1,000 hours of literacy experience. Academic performance can be significantly improved by increasing children's pre-kindergarten literacy experience regardless of their socioeconomic status.**
- **Out of every 193 Americans that are in jail, 49% of them read at or below a 9th grade level.**
- **Of the children who leave third (3rd) grade reading below grade level, 74% never catch up.**

Resources:

1. [The 90% Reading Goal](#) by Lynn Fielding, Nance Kerr, Paul Rosier, 1998 New Foundation Press
2. [Annual Growth For All Students, Catch-Up Growth For Those Who Are Behind](#) by Lynn Fielding, Nance Kerr, Paul Rosier, 2007 New Foundation Press

Read to a child 20 minutes a day

It makes a difference



Sallisaw Public Schools

Equal Educational and Employment Institution

The Impact of Reading 20 Minutes a Day

The Story of Tyler and Macy

Meet Tyler and Macy—two students that reflect the lives of thousands of others across the nation.

Both are fourth graders and best friends. Macy enjoys school and learning. Tyler does not like school because he has a hard time with learning. Science and math are very hard. Macy likes to tackle a problem in math or study about the life cycle of a plant. Tyler struggles with each subject and does not complete his work.

Tyler and Macy grew up very differently and it is reflected in how they learn in school. Macy's parents have read to Macy since birth. Her crib was surrounded by bright colors and letters of the alphabet. Her parents would point out shapes and words on street signs, making every task a learning opportunity. Macy banked thousands of hours of literacy skills before she came to Kindergarten.

Tyler did not have the same experience. He was loved and nurtured but his parent's did not read to him as a baby. His parents felt that learning occurred at school. Tyler was not prepared for Kindergarten. His bank of literacy skills was nearly empty.

Tyler and Macy came to school at two different levels. Macy will continue to learn and read on grade level. Tyler may catch up with a great deal of work, but as he struggles with homework and reading lessons he may become discouraged and give up. By 9th grade the gap is getting larger for Tyler. He has read about 800,000 words in his lifetime. Macy has read 14 million. His self esteem will suffer and studies show that if a child is not reading on grade level by third grade, he/she will be more likely to drop out of high school.

Reading is the key to success. Begin at birth.

Parents Make the Difference

Imagine a kid who practices batting and pitching a ball to his dad an hour every day all summer, from the time the child is three until he is eight. (May, June, July, August = 120 hours a year for five years.)

Imagine a second child—no practice, no training, has never slipped his hand in a baseball glove, has never ran bases, has never swung a bat, has almost never seen a full game played.

Imagine that they turn out the same day for little league try-outs. The skill level between these two young ball players is like the skill level in reading readiness for our incoming kindergartners.

Make Books a Part of Your Daily Routine

The more that books are woven into children's everyday lives, the more likely they will be to see reading as a pleasure and a gift.

- **At Meal Times**

Sing or Read a story during a moment of quiet nursing or to gather the kids around the noisy breakfast table.

- **In the Car or On the Bus**

Keep a few books in the car or in your diaper bag to keep your little ones quite and busy.

- **At Child Care Drop Off**

Calm a crying child at good-bye time with a favorite story or lullaby. Leave a photo book with pictures of loved family members at child care so your child can flip through it when she is missing you.

- **At the Doctor's Office**

Read or tell a soothing story to your little one in the waiting room and sing or talk through the scary parts of the visit. Before the visit, read books about going to the doctor so your child knows what to expect.

- **At the Grocery Store**

Put a few board books in the shopping cart or tie a cloth book to the shopping cart so you're not cleaning up books from the floor as you go.

- **At Nap Time**

Familiar routines always help babies calm down. Use books and stories to quietly ease your baby to sleep.

- **At Days End**

You are exhausted, the baby is fussy. Lie down on the floor surrounded by books. Play a book on tape for your baby. Sing a song together while you all try to relax a bit.

- **At Bath Time**

Plastic bath time books are great fun and may help a fussy baby enjoy the tub a little more.

- **At Bed Time**

Soothing books and stories can work magic with babies who fight sleep!