

Why Teach Literacy? Some Answers From Research.....

35% of children enter school academically at-risk – a significant statistic considering that the skills a child enters school with directly predict later academic performance.

Stanovich, K (1986). Matthew effects in reading: Some consequences of individual differences in the acquisition of literacy. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 21, 360-40.

The skills a child enters school with directly predict later academic performance. A poor 1st grade reader has a 90% probability of being a poor 4th grade reader, and a kindergartner with good alphabet knowledge will likely be a good reader in 10th grade.

Juel, C (1988). Learning to read and write: A longitudinal study of 54 children from first through fourth grades. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 80, 437-447.

...low income children need high quality, center-based care.

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Early Child Care Research Network. 2000. The Relation of Child Care to Cognitive and Language Development. *Child Development* 71 (4): 960-80.

97% of professional parents have alphabet books in the home, compared to only 53% of parents on public aid.
Carnegie Foundation Report. 1991. Ready to Learn, A Mandate for the Nation.

...upon entering first grade, a middle-class child has enjoyed 1,000 to 1,700 hours of one-on-one reading while a low-income child has just experienced only 25 hours of one-on-one reading.

Carnegie Foundation Report. 1991. Ready to Learn, A Mandate for the Nation.

Children from low-income families are also less likely to have parents who read to them, help them with homework and participate in school activities.

Capps, Randy, Michael Fix, Julie Murray, Jason Ost, Jeffrey S. Passel, and Shinta Herwanto. 2005. *The New Demography of America's Schools: Immigration and the No Child Left Behind Act*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

Children of low-income immigrants are at risk for slower cognitive development, slower language development and poorer academic performance due to poverty, low parental education and limited English proficiency.

Hernandez, Donald J. 1999. Children of Immigrants: Health, Adjustment, and Public Assistance. In *Children of Immigrants: Health, Adjustment, and Public Assistance*, by the committee on the Health and Adjustment of Immigrant Children and Families, Donald J. Hernandez, editor (1-18). Board on Children, Youth and Families, National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.

...adults without basic literacy skills accounted for 75% of the unemployed and 60% of prison inmates while 85% of youngsters appearing in court were unable to read.

National Institute for Literacy

Teens that have significant reading problems are also 4 times more likely than their peers to contemplate or attempt suicide.

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