

Sparking Literacy



TOPLINE NEWS FROM READ TO ME PROJECT NOVEMBER 16, 2021

SHOULD WE BE WORRIED ABOUT CHILDREN IN MONTEREY COUNTY?

Absolutely.

Forty-five percent of students are scoring below the basic level in English language arts and math. Fifty-four percent of high school graduates are entering college requiring remediation.



Lost learning over the past year due to Covid-19 has increased the literacy gap among children who are already as much as two years behind in school.

Literacy is a measure of a community's economic health and vitality. It allows young people to see all the options and opportunities available to them. Literacy is cited as the top issue in reducing gang violence in our community. Research shows that children who cannot read by the 4th-grade are among the first to drop out of school. Children from homes with high literacy skills have greater success in school and at work. Lack of language and literacy skills is a barrier to entry and advancement in many types of employment. - Excerpt, Monterey County Weekly, by Diane Cordero de Noriega, Literacy Campaign Steering Committee, 2013.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN ANY CURE.

Read to Me Project was founded to address the alarming 70% of children in Monterey County who are starting kindergarten as much as two years behind - most of whom never catch up in school. It is the only program reaching into no/low literate, low socioeconomic homes of children 6 months to 5 years old to help establish their early literacy skills and knowledge. Yet, Read to Me Project is proven to benefit their brothers and sisters in under-performing 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes as well.

On behalf of these children we are asking for your funding support during the [Monterey County Gives! Campaign](#). Please help prevent the root cause of most societal issues - low literacy. Your donation now through December 31st will be percentage matched by incredible campaign sponsors.

[Yes, I support literacy](#)

*With all our heart,
thank you!*

[Website](#)

