

Sparking Literacy



TOPLINE NEWS FROM READ TO ME PROJECT

DECEMBER 2022

Hard Truth: WHAT CAUSES ILLITERACY?

- Parents with little schooling;
- Lack of books at home and lack of stimulation as to the importance of reading;
- Starting behind in school;
- Struggling in school and dropping out.
(Students who cannot read proficiently by the 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of school. 2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail and/or on welfare. Over 70% of inmates in the U.S. cannot read above the 4th grade level.)
- Difficult living conditions, including poverty;
- Learning disabilities, such as dyslexia



Teachers basically have 360 days for teaching 1st and 2nd graders how to read. But a majority of time is spent helping their students develop foundational literacy knowledge rather than teaching the grade level reading curriculum. Third graders are expected to be able to read fairly accurately and fluently, decode dozens of multisyllabic words, such as pho-to-graph and est-i-mate, as well as read some irregularly spelled words such as enough, especially, and confusion. Sadly, only 30% of children in Monterey County are ready to be reading by the third grade.

Expert educators say illiteracy is preventable, but for decades remedial programs have been necessary at every grade level. Covid-19 has shone a very bright light on the issue that the pandemic has exacerbated, leading to more talk about the need to prevent illiteracy to begin with. ***Illiteracy is one of the most solvable issues!***

Read to Me Project is a prevention-based solution for preschoolers in low literate families. The program provides them with the precursory early literacy knowledge that is necessary for learning how to read. This is why Read to Me Project was founded 11 years ago and why we are asking for support.

Funding support, YES, PLEASE. (Schools pay just 25% of the total per class costs for program implementation.)

Here is what one teacher says,

From the start, I was so excited about Read to Me Project and how it can change lives one child, family, school, and community at a time. Literacy is the heartbeat of any elementary school. I continue to be thrilled with the results I am seeing with my fourth graders. It will be wonderful through the years to have the little ones coming to kindergarten not only excited about reading, but with some of the foundational skills already!

This is such a worthwhile program. It makes no sense to me why every teacher and school doesn't take advantage of it.

MONTEREY COUNTY **GIVES!**

Joining Together for Big Ideas

The goal is to raise \$60,000 during the Monterey County Gives! Campaign.

Will you please support the solution to low literacy in Monterey County? Please donate to Read to Me Project **now through December 31st** by going to [Read to Me Project: Monterey County Gives! Campaign](#).

**To everyone who has already donated, thank you!
Your contributions total nearly \$40,000.
Just \$20,000 more to raise to reach the goal.**

KUDOS AND THANK YOU to the visionary schools that are providing Read to Me Project to their families this year:

Monterey County

Gonzales: La Gloria Elementary

Greenfield: Oak Avenue, Arroyo Seco, Mary Chapa Academy, and Cesar Chavez Elementary Schools

Salinas (Alisal USD): Creekside Elementary School

King City: Del Rey, Santa Lucia, and King City Arts Magnet Elementary Schools

Tehama County:

Gerber Elementary School (license funding)



Yes, I support early literacy

Website

Vision: Every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

