

Sparking Literacy



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE READ TO ME PROJECT

DECEMBER 7, 2023

One of the books I took home was about shapes and my little one really liked it. I made a song with the names of the shapes and sang it to my little one and he started dancing. He really likes the song and the book.

- Alexia, King City 4th grader reads to the 2-year-old at home.

Comments from other students:

My little one likes to keep the books by his bed so he can get them and bring them to me to read.

My little one loves the [Read to Me Project] books.

Despite Debates Over Varying Methods for Teaching Children How to Read, Let's Get Them Ready to Learn in the First Place.

Seriously! We Can Fix the Literacy Crisis!

The ongoing discussion concerning reading instruction methods in schools often fails to recognize a fundamental, unchanging reality: 90 percent of a child's brain development occurs during the first five years of life, before they even set foot in a classroom.

It's disheartening that, by the fourth grade, two out of three American children fall short of meeting essential literacy standards. Regardless of which methods are used to teach reading - whether phonics-based or balanced literacy approaches - students will struggle with learning how to read if they started school without foundational literacy skills.

How do we address the issue of low literacy among 70% of children in Monterey County while policymakers and educators continue their prolonged deliberations about how to teach children to read?

The solution begins at birth. Read to Me Project primarily reaches families through the older children in the family who are coached to mentor and regularly read to the preschoolers at home. We also empower parents with consistent support and resources that foster and encourage their child's early literacy development.

Furthermore, we guide and assist both students and parents to create a nurturing and literature-rich home environment, complete with the provision of books to help create an in-home library.

Only by recognizing the critical significance of the first five years can we truly engage in a meaningful discussion about effective reading instruction methods.

The Read to Me Project is focused on providing preschoolers with the essential building blocks of early literacy knowledge that prepare them for learning how to read regardless of the reading instruction method employed by their future teachers.

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!"

She continues, "This is such a worthwhile program, and it makes no sense to me why every teacher and school doesn't promote it. The research is there."

It's Time to Ask

Will you please support Read to Me Project's solution for closing the literacy gap among disadvantaged children in low literate families?

MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!
Joining Together for Big Ideas

Our only fundraiser of the year!

[Donate](#)

Donations received now through December 31st will raise a percentage match from Monterey County Gives! Campaign Partners.

The Holiday Book Wrap Events are Underway at Read to Me Project Schools

Almost 800 new books are about to become cherished holiday presents from students to the preschoolers at home. Students express their joy in being able to give a gift.





Happy Holidays



Sending warm wishes to you
and your family for
peace,
joy,
and happiness
throughout the holiday season and
always.

With gratitude,
Julia, Mary, Amanda, Kam,
Maria, & Beverly



Every child entering kindergarten prepared to succeed.

Website

