



Book'em - Bringing Kids and Books Together

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Literacy Facts – Did You Know?

14% of adults in the United States read at or below a fifth-grade level. 29% only read at the 8th grade level. 19% of our high school graduates cannot read. *The National Assessment of Adult Literacy (Department of Education)*

Among adults at the lowest level of literacy proficiency, 43% live in poverty. Among adults with strong literacy skills, only 4% live in poverty. *The National Assessment of Adult Literacy (Department of Education)*

Nationally, 75% of state prison inmates did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate. 59% of federal prison inmates did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate. *The Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report*

Low literacy adds an estimated \$230 billion to the United States' annual health care costs. *The National Assessment of Adult Literacy (Department of Education); Low Health Literacy: Implications for National Health Policy*

The effects of low literacy cost the U.S. more than \$225 billion each year in non-productivity in the workforce and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment. Individuals at the lowest level of literacy have a higher rate of unemployment than the national average – 14.5% in 2011. *Bureau of Labor Statistics (Department of Labor)*

In middle income neighborhoods the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1, in low-income neighborhoods the ratio is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children. *Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2. 2006*

82,000 students attend Metro Nashville Public Schools. 55,000 of them are considered economically disadvantaged. 22,200 of them are English learners. *MNPS 2013-14 Facts, www.mnps.org*

68% of Metro Nashville Public Schools 3rd graders in the economically disadvantaged subgroup scored at the basic or below basic reading level on the 2013 TCAP assessment. *TN Department of Education Report Card 2013*

A third-grader who can't read on grade level is four times less likely to graduate by age 18 than a proficient reader. *Hernandez, 2011*

Children spend about 900 hours a year in school and 7,800 hours outside school.

Giving children access to print materials is associated with positive behavioral, educational, and psychological outcomes. Access to print materials:

- Improves children's reading performance
- Is instrumental in helping children learn the basics of reading
- Causes children to read more and for longer lengths of time
- Produces improved attitudes toward reading and learning among children

Access to Print Materials Improves Children's Reading: A Meta-Analysis of 108 Most Relevant Studies Shows Positive Impacts 2010 Learning Point Associates.

Greater literacy is linked to:

- Increased voter participation
- Higher rates of citizenship
- Enhanced volunteerism and civic engagement
- Success for the next generation
- Lower incarceration rates
- Better health and healthcare
- Greater personal income

Report of the National Commission on Adult Literacy, June 2008

Ensuring that books are available to any child at any time of the year will be a good first step in enhancing the reading achievement of low-income students and an absolutely necessary step in closing the reading achievement gap. *Ameliorating summer reading setback among economically disadvantaged elementary students, Richard Allington, 2007*

Children who grow up in homes where books are plentiful go further in school than those who don't. Children with low-education families can do as well as children with high-education families if they have access to books at home. *Family scholarly culture and educational success: Books and schooling in 27 nations*

Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading-comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer. *Kim, 2004*