



2023 SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN:  
**Getting Ready to Read**

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
CRANE CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD  
RESEARCH AND POLICY

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN | OCTOBER 2023

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**FLASH TALKS**

**A LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OHIO**

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**FLASH TALK**



**Evidence-based curriculum supplement:  
Sit Together and Read**

Dr. Laura Justice, Executive Director of the Schoenbaum Family Center and Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy

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**Sit Together and Read**

*A scientifically based intervention for improving early-literacy skills*

Laura Justice, PhD  
Distinguished Professor – Educational Psychology  
Executive Director – Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy

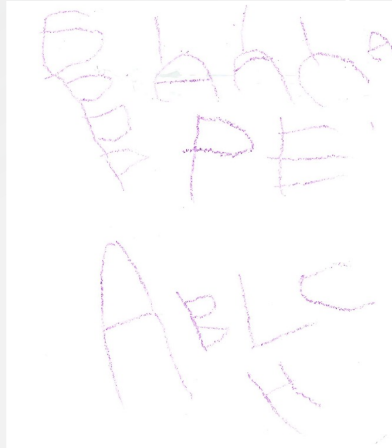
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## Print Knowledge



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## Print Knowledge

Universal cognitive  
prerequisite for  
reading development

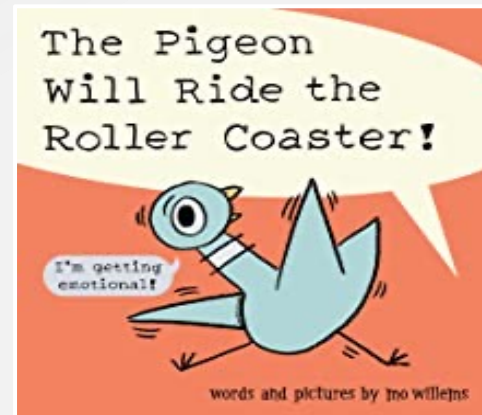


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## **Print Knowledge... does not always emerge naturally**

### **PRINT-FOCUSED READ-ALOUNDS**

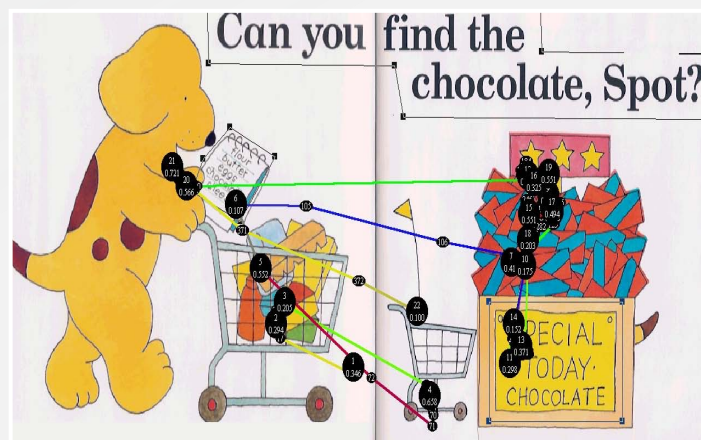
Reading books with children and deliberately talking about or pointing to print



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## **Print-Focused Read-Alouds**

- Point to print
- Track the print
- Comment on print
- Question about print



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## **Sit Together and Read (STAR)**

A manualized book-reading program featuring print-focused read-alouds to enhance children's print knowledge:



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## **4 Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)**

- STAR-1: 85 publicly funded preschool classrooms
- STAR-2: 83 early childhood special education classrooms
- STAR-3: 128 parent-child dyads
- STAR-4: 320 parent-child dyads (ongoing)

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## STAR1 Results ( $N = 550$ children)

**SIT TOGETHER AND READ**

STAR 2 is a collaborative project between The Ohio State University and the University of Toledo. The study adheres to the ethical guidelines of both institutions and the federal government.

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Laura Justice, Ph.D.  
Roshawn Carter, M.Ed.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO**  
Joan Kadenavek, Ph.D.  
Aileen Hunt, M.A.

**STAR 2**  
A research study to determine how interactive parent-child reading impacts children's learning and development.

**ALL YOURS TO KEEP**

This research project is funded by the Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences.

**SIT TOGETHER AND READ 2**

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## STAR1 Results ( $N = 550$ children)

- High levels of fidelity for teachers
- Very low-cost intervention
- Short-term impacts on print knowledge (alphabet, print concepts, name writing)
- Two-year sustained impacts on reading (decoding, comprehension, spelling)


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## SIT TOGETHER AND READ


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[ABOUT STAR](#)   [MATERIALS](#)   [RESEARCH](#)   [CRANE CENTER](#)   [CONTACT US](#)




# star.ehe.osu.edu


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# FLASH TALK



**Statewide efforts to support children and families**

Kara Wentz, Director of the Ohio Department of Children and Youth


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# Department of Children & Youth

*Kara Wentz, Director*



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



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***“Our goal for each Ohioan is for them to be able to live up to their full potential and for each one to have the opportunity to live up to their version of the American dream.”***

- Governor Mike DeWine



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## GOVERNOR’S VISION FOR HEALTHY, SUPPORTED FAMILIES

In October 2022 Governor DeWine announced Ohio’s Bold Beginning Plan to ensure we had Healthy, Supported Families. The new agency supports this focus on Ohio’s families, serving children and youth through the mission and priorities outlined by the Governor.

### MISSION

“I have a vision for Ohio to be the **best place in the nation** to have a baby and raise a family. With Bold Beginning: Healthy, Supported Families, Ohio will provide even more **options and supports** that can be tailored to each family’s needs, while providing assistance to **mothers most at-risk for poor outcomes**, to help them as they begin or add to their family”.

-Ohio Governor Mike DeWine

### PRIORITIES



Healthcare Access & Improving Care



Family Supports



Adoption & Children Services



Literacy – Science of Reading



## OHIO DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & YOUTH

### WHAT

The Department will promote the efficient and effective delivery of services to Ohio’s more than 2.5 million children and their families by:

- combining functions and programs from six different state agencies
- reducing duplicative programs from across state government
- increasing administrative efficiency
- improving the delivery of services to families depending on these essential state programs

### WHY

- Expanded investments; strengthened focus; falling rankings
- Must do something different:
  - **#1: Public Awareness:** Ensure that parents, caregivers, helping agencies know about and can access child and youth services.
  - **#2: Ease of access:** By integrating and individualizing services to fit the family.

### WHEN

- The Department was established on **July 4, 2023**. Over the next several months the Directors of the respective agencies, or their designees, will develop a detailed plan to implement the transfer of duties, functions, programs, and staff.
- Full transition of all programs to occur no later than **January 1, 2025**.





## OHIO DCY PROGRAMS

The programs under the direction of the new department will include:



### Identification:

- Children Services
- Home Visiting
- Ohio Children’s Trust Fund
- Maternal and Infant Vitality Programming



### Early Education:

- Early Intervention
- Publicly Funded Child Care
- Early Childhood Education
- Preschool Special Education
- Licensing
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library



### Support:

- Ohio Fatherhood Commission
- Ohio Family Children First Council
- Healthy Beginnings at Home
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
- Strong Families, Safe Communities

*The Department will place children at the core of its mission to promote positive, lifelong outcomes for all Ohio youth.*

## OHIO DCY PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

The following principles provide a foundation by which we will be successful in achieving our goals as an agency:



### Transparency

*Will create transparency across programs utilizing cross-program data*



### Accountability

*Will create accountability to ensure children are receiving services when needed with the intended outcomes*



### Focus & Prioritization

*Continue prioritization of children from birth to age 21 both in policy and funding*



### Maintain Local Structure

*Foster collaboration to ensure strong child and family outcomes but local structure remains a local decision*

*In order to...*



### Empower Children

*Help more children thrive and reach their first birthday.*



### Provide Care

*Ensure continuity of care across the spectrum of ages, stages, and services to help children and youth succeed.*

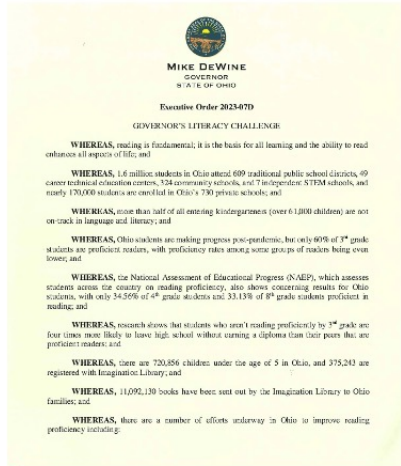


### Support Families

*Help provide families with needed resources and supports proactively, before a crisis within the family occurs.*

## EXECUTIVE ORDER – 2023-07D

On March 23, 2023, Executive Order 2023-07D was signed which set forth four strategies constituting Ohio’s Literacy Challenge:



### Executive Order 2023-07D Strategies

1. Develop a program to recognize schools that are demonstrating strong implementation of best instructional practices aligned to the Science of Reading and where students are making significant progress in reading.
2. Collaborate with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio to develop recommendations for ongoing public-private partnerships aimed at encouraging reading.
3. Develop strategies for increasing parental and family involvement in teaching and encouraging reading.
4. Work with all state agencies and interested parties to develop a strategy to contribute to the goal of improved reading, including measurable goals.

## EXECUTIVE ORDER – 2023-07D

*“Collaborate with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio to develop recommendations for ongoing public-private partnerships aimed at encouraging reading.”*



DPIL reading facility in London Correctional Institution. Setting allows children visiting incarcerated persons to read books together.



“Tales with Troopers” where members of the OSHP read to children and provided handouts for them to take home.

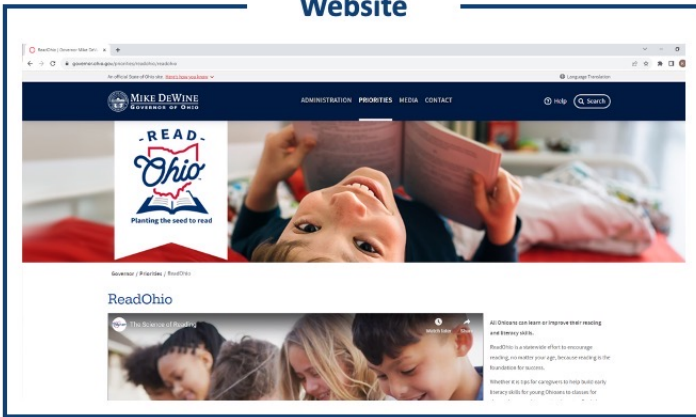
**391,381**

**of Ohio’s children received books this month from DPIL Ohio.**

## EXECUTIVE ORDER – 2023-07D

*“Develop strategies for increasing **parental and family involvement** in teaching and encouraging reading”.*

### Website



### Social Media



Videos – Coming soon....

## EXECUTIVE ORDER – 2023-07D

*“Work with all **state agencies and interested parties** to develop a strategy to contribute to the goal of **improved reading, including measurable goals**”.*

### Department of Rehabilitation Services

The Ohio Poet Laureate, Kari Gunter-Seymour, visited the Ohio Reformatory for Women to discuss opportunities for collaboration and educational support educational for incarcerated persons.

### Department of Veterans Services

The Dept of Veterans Services is in the process of creating an In-House Reading Program to provide programming for early readers, middle-aged and adult readers in collaboration with community members. Early readers will be matched with veterans who will serve as special guests and book buddies.

### Job and Family Services

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services recently launched a new stand-alone feature, “BookTalk”, which is an interview with a JFS staff member specifically and solely dedicated to books and literacy.

### Lottery

The Ohio Lottery educated guests about the Governor’s Literacy Initiatives at their recent sponsorship events including Jeep Fest and the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame.





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## FLASH TALK



**Bolstering literacy: Teacher capacity, multi-tiered support systems, and partnerships**

Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Chief of Literacy for the Ohio Department of Education

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# Literacy Achievement and Reading Success



Melissa M. Weber-Mayrer, PhD  
October 2023

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## Proficiency Status 2021-2022 Grades K-4

Grade Level	Ohio's State Test for English Language Arts Assessment: Proficiency Status			
	On Track	Not On Track	Proficient	Not Proficient
<b>Kindergarten</b>	60% (75,475)	40% (49,904)	N/A	N/A
<b>Grade 1</b>	62% (72,410)	38% (44,930)	N/A	N/A
<b>Grade 2</b>	55% (67,028)	45% (54,252)	N/A	N/A
<b>Grade 3</b>	56% (68,109)	44% (53,190)	60% (74,639)	40% (50,161)
<b>Grade 4</b>	N/A *(Not Available)	N/A	62% (78,841)	38% (44,892)

*Annual K-4 Literacy Report*

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## Statewide Call to Action

Demographic Group	English Language Arts				Mathematics			
	2018-19	2020-21	2021-22		2018-19	2020-21	2021-22	
<b>All Students</b>	64.6%	57.0%	59.5%	△	61.0%	48.2%	50.5%	△
<b>Economically Disadvantaged</b>	49.5%	39.5%	43.0%	△	45.5%	30.0%	32.6%	△
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	28.9%	20.3%	20.9%	△	28.2%	17.0%	17.4%	△
<b>English Learners</b>	43.7%	35.3%	35.9%	△	45.7%	31.1%	31.4%	△
<b>White, Non-Hispanic</b>	71.7%	64.9%	67.6%	△	68.9%	56.9%	59.8%	△
<b>Black, Non-Hispanic</b>	39.3%	28.9%	33.2%	△	32.5%	17.1%	20.4%	△
<b>Hispanic</b>	51.2%	42.0%	45.1%	△	47.9%	32.6%	35.4%	△
<b>Multiracial</b>	59.6%	50.4%	54.6%	△	54.6%	38.9%	42.8%	△
<b>Asian or Pacific Islander</b>	76.8%	71.9%	73.7%	△	78.7%	68.7%	71.4%	△
<b>Alaskan Native or American Indian</b>	60.0%	50.2%	51.8%	△	54.0%	39.4%	40.8%	△

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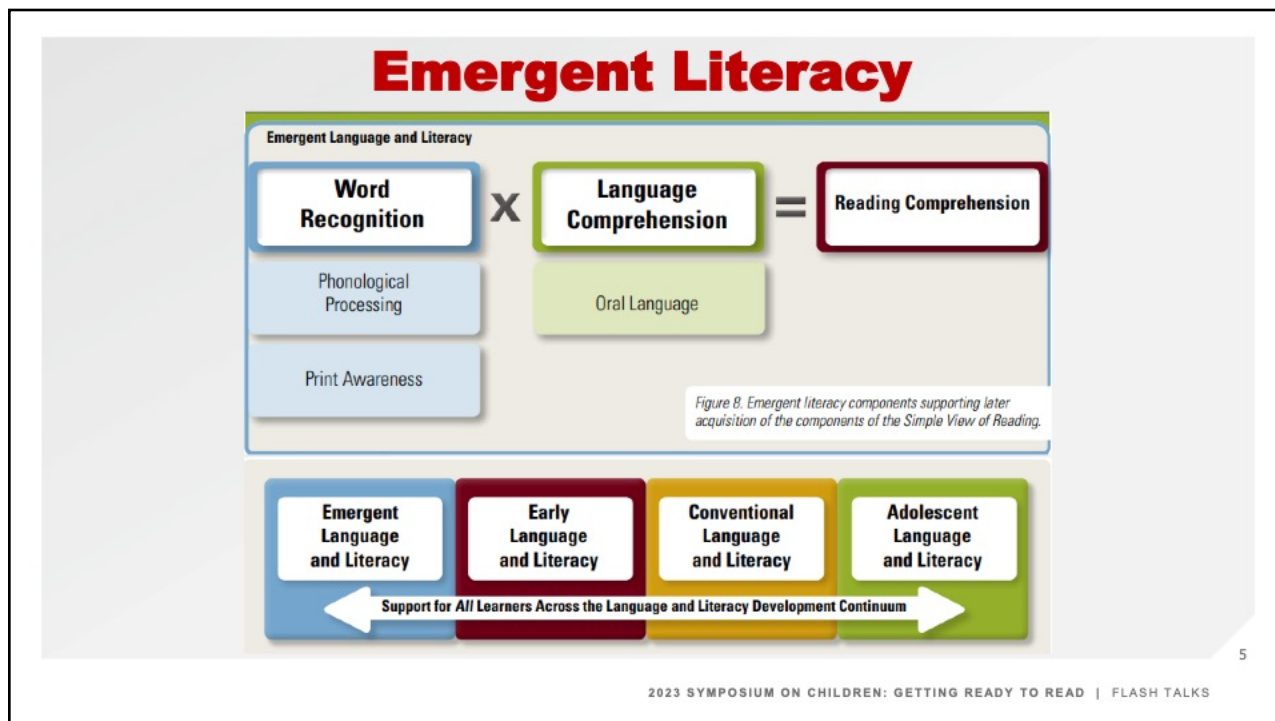
## Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement: Resources for School Leaders



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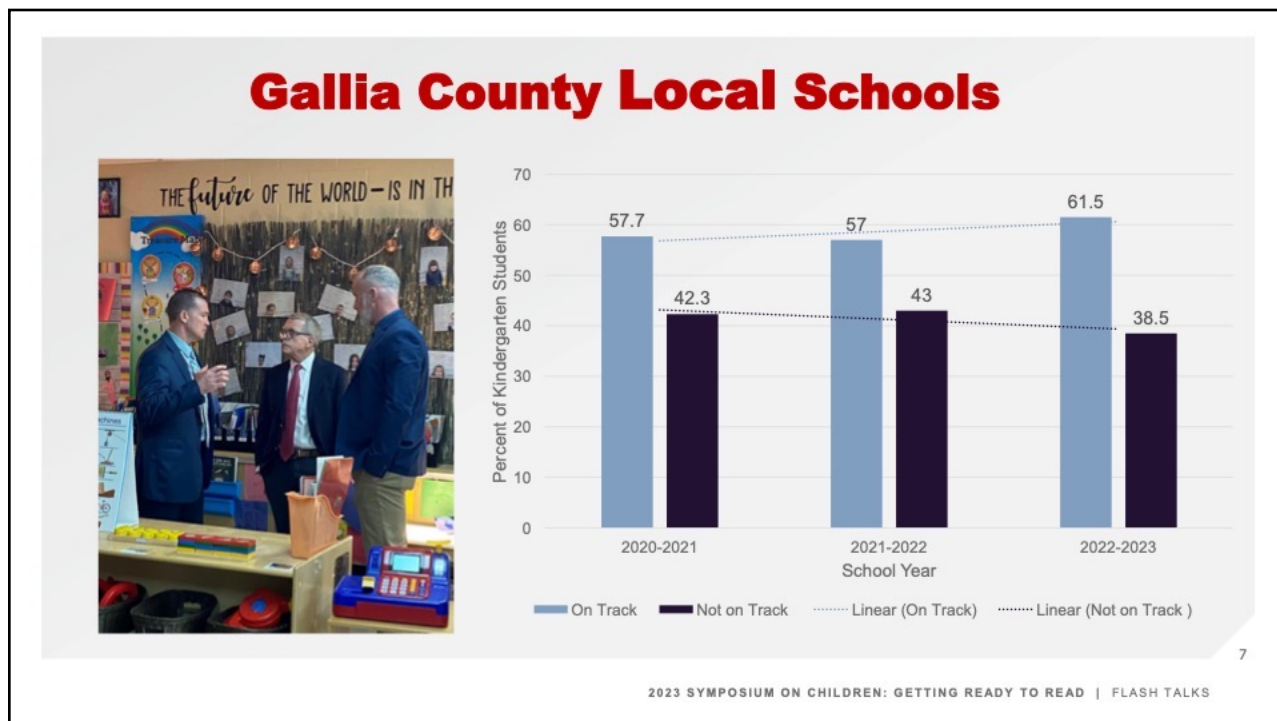
## Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards

### Language and Literacy

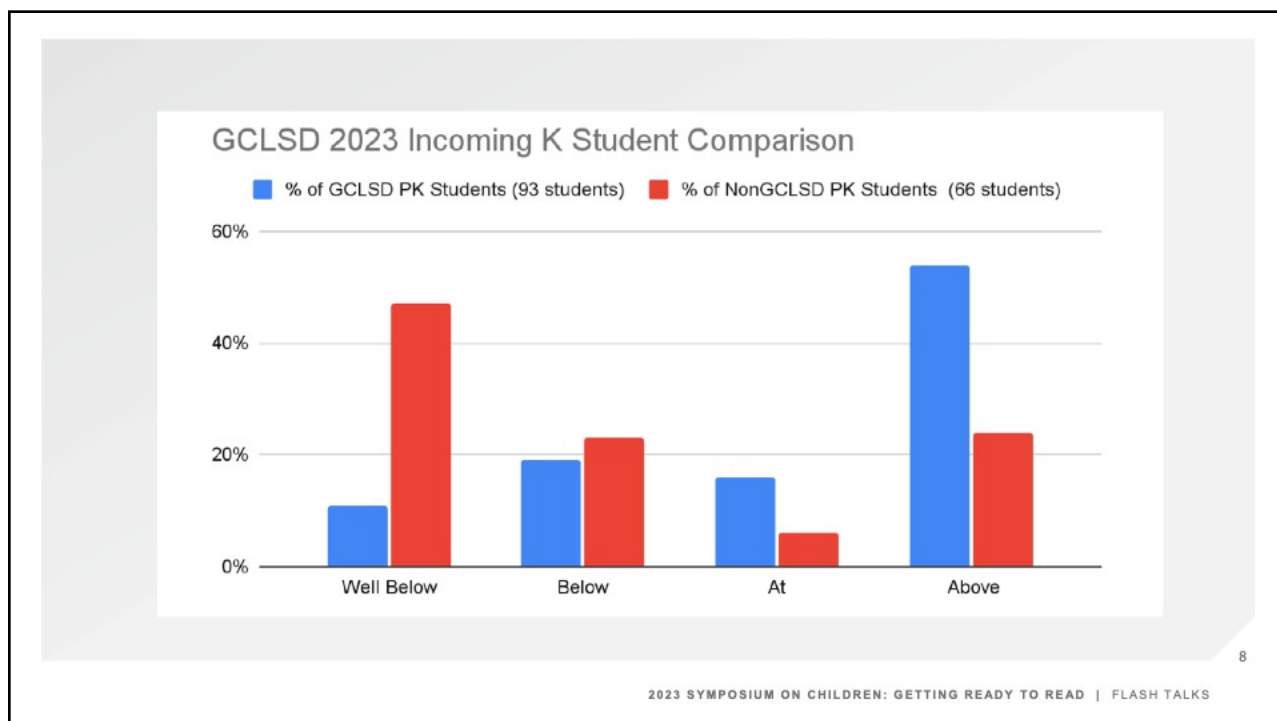
Strand	Standard Statements
1. Language and Communication	a. Demonstrates understanding of increasingly complex language. b. Develops and expands understanding of vocabulary and concepts. c. Communicates using increasingly complex language. d. Participates in conversations with increasing application of turn-taking skills. e. Develops comprehension of read-aloud text.
2. Phonological Awareness	a. Develops awareness of syllables in spoken words. b. Develops awareness of initial sounds, onsets, and rimes in spoken words. c. Develops understanding of rhyme.
3. Print Awareness	a. Develops knowledge of print organization. b. Develops knowledge of the alphabet.
4. Emergent Writing	a. Develops understanding that writing represents spoken language. b. Draws and writes using increasingly sophisticated grasp.

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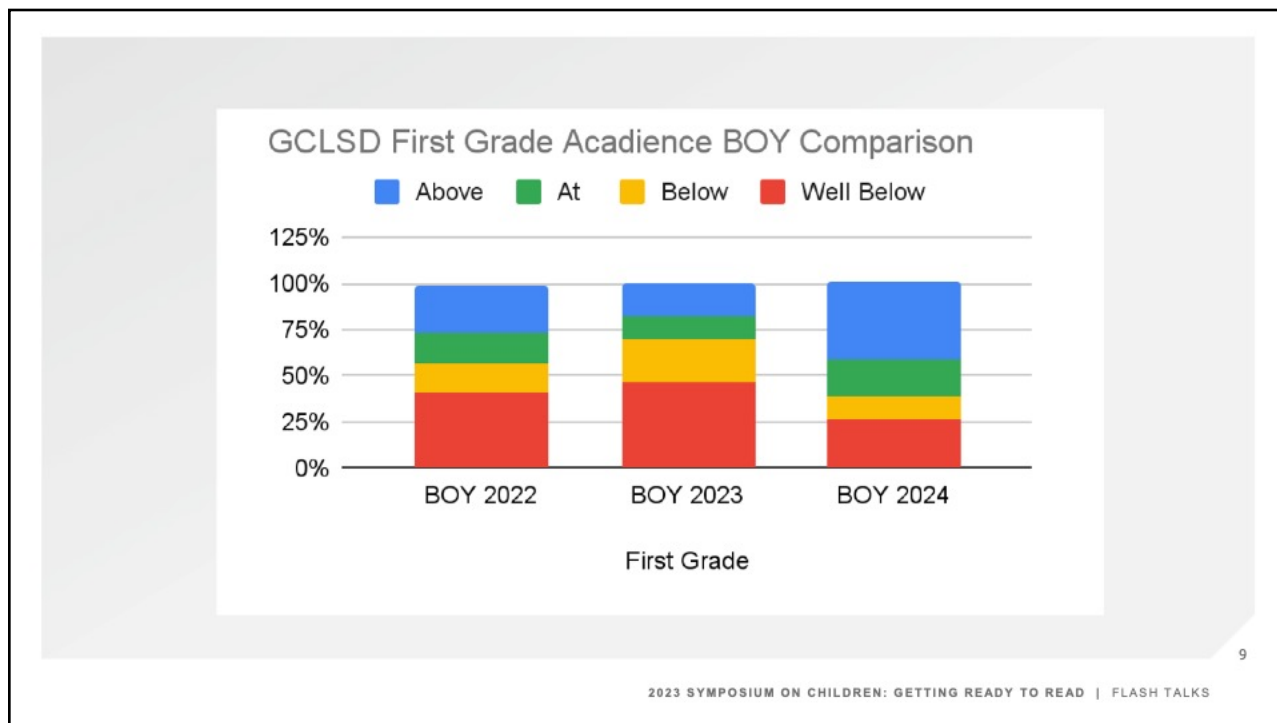
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## Marion City Schools

Developed a Local Literacy Success Team to promote the importance of language and literacy in early childhood in the community.

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**FLASH TALK**

**Early Literacy Center: Playscapes to build early literacy**

Becky Schaade, Library Director at Fairfield County District Library

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# Early Literacy Centers: Play with a purpose

Becky Schaade  
Library Director  
Fairfield County District Library  
[bschaade@fcdlibrary.org](mailto:bschaade@fcdlibrary.org)

Fairfield County District  
**Library**



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## The Basics

- Locations
- Preschool focused
- Early Literacy focused
- Centers-based layout



Fairfield County District  
**Library**



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## Art Center



Drawing and painting build fine motor skills, encourage narrative skills, and teach letter knowledge.

## Block Area



Block play encourages imagination and storytelling, as well as spatial and fine motor skills.

Fairfield County District  
**Library**



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## Dollhouse Play



Builds language ability, vocabulary skills, and narrative skills.

## Play Dough Area



Builds fine motor skills needed for writing, letter recognition.

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## Manipulative Area



Build letter knowledge, phonological awareness, and fine motor skills.

## Kitchen Dramatic Play



Social skills, vocabulary, and even writing skills are built.

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## Baby Area



Safe and comfortable place for infants, with developmentally appropriate toys and caregiver seating.

## Other Activities



Duplo Table, Sensory Bins, Train Table, Wall Activities, etc.

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## What Worked--and What Didn't...

- Success!
  - Wide range of materials
  - Change out toys and activities
  - "Clean Me" bucket
- Lessons Learned:
  - Label toys with initials
  - Paint/playdough need staff
  - Storytime in same area is challenge
  - Be aware that success can be loud!
  - Make sure donations fit your mission
  - No commercial characters



**Library** Fairfield County District



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## For More Information




- Any questions, feel free to email [bschaade@fcdlibrary.org](mailto:bschaade@fcdlibrary.org)
- Road Trip? We would love for you to visit!

**Library** Fairfield County District



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# FLASH TALK



Ohio Ready to Read: Librarians empowering families in early literacy

Julia Shaheen, Literacy Manager at Stark County District Library and Trainer for Ohio Ready to Read

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## School Readiness at the Library!



**The Six Skills**

- PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS
- LETTER AWARENESS
- PRINT AWARENESS
- PRINT MOTIVATION
- VOCABULARY
- NARRATIVE SKILLS

**The Five Practices**



**Science of Reading**

- 1 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS
- 2 PHONICS WORD RECOGNITION
- 3 FLUENCY
- 4 VOCABULARY ORAL LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION
- 5 TEXT COMPREHENSION

Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit

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Storytime at the Library!

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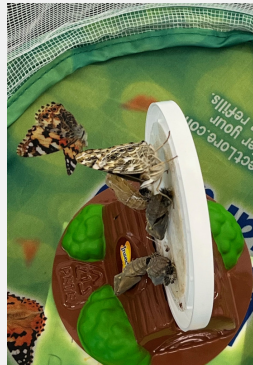
Programs at the Library!

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### Passive Activities at the Library!



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### Outreach with the Library!

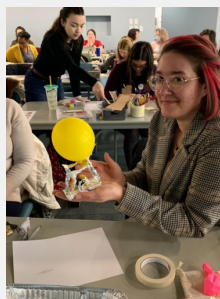


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### Workshops at the Library!



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### For more information...



Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit



Bay Area  
Discovery  
Museum



Ohio  
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# FINAL THOUGHTS


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## SURVEY



Please take a moment to fill this out.  
*\*Required for those seeking certificates of attendance or Ohio-Approved credit.*

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# AWARDS CEREMONY

## CRANE EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD AWARDS

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### AWARD WINNER



## Crane Excellence in Early Childhood Practice Award

Rebecca Love, Director of Early Childhood Education for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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**AWARD WINNER**



**Crane Excellence in Early Childhood Research Award**

Dr. Monica Johnson Mitchell, Professor of Pediatrics in Behavioral Medicine and Clinical Psychology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital

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**AWARD WINNER**



**Crane Excellence in Early Childhood Policy Award**


Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine

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Thank you for being here with us today!

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