



#### WHY DO WE NEED FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS?

- Parents with low literacy skills are often unable to provide a stimulating home-learning environment conducive to advancing academic skills for their children<sup>1</sup>.
- Many children whose mothers did not complete high school are not school ready<sup>2</sup>.
- Children whose parents have low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels<sup>3</sup>.
- Children who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to not get a high school diploma<sup>4</sup>.
- Low-literacy skills are linked to higher unemployment, less income, and poor health leading to greater inequality for millions of families<sup>3</sup>.

#### HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Don't assume that because the parents don't show up or don't check their child's homework that they don't care – many parents with low literacy simply don't have the skills and don't know what to do or how to respond. ***FIND ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO REACH and TEACH PARENTS HOW TO BE SCHOOL PARTNERS.***
- When creating Family Literacy Programs, make sure services are ***APPROPRIATE TO THE LITERACY LEVEL OF AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE TO THE PARENTS.***
- Help parents ***UNDERSTAND DEVELOPMENTALLY TYPICAL BEHAVIOR OF THEIR CHILDREN.***
- Include education and training for parents that help ***LEAD TO FAMILY ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.***
- Teach parents how to get their ***CHILDREN READY FOR SCHOOL and how to SUCCEED IN SCHOOL.***
- Encourage parents to ***CREATE A STIMULATING HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.***

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

- <http://familieslearning.org/>
- <http://toyotafamilylearning.org/>
- <https://ed.psu.edu/goodling-institute>
- <https://www.mommyandmefamilyliteracy.com/>
- <https://barbarabush.org/>
- <http://dec.al.gov/documents/attachments/EarlyChildhoodGA-web.pdf>

#### EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA

## REAL DADS READ

<http://www.fathersincorporated.com/realdadsread.html>

Headquartered in Dunwoody, Georgia, Fathers Incorporated is dedicated to strengthening the community and family infrastructure by encouraging and enabling the positive involvement of fathers in the lives of their children. The "Real Dads Read" initiative is a two-generation literacy program that addresses K-8th grade children and their fathers/male caregivers by encouraging the love for reading, improving literacy skills and strengthening bonds.

## FRIENDS OF REFUGEES

<https://friendsofrefugees.com/>

Located in Clarkston, Georgia, Friends of Refugees is empowering refugees through opportunities for well-being, education and employment. Friends of Refugees uses a two-generation approach to English fluency and literacy instruction/support for refugees living in/near Clarkston.

## LOS NINOS PRIMERO (KIDS FIRST)

<http://www.losninosprimeroga.org/>

Located in Sandy Springs, Georgia, Los Niños Primero is a year-round educational program for Latino children, working to provide families and children with the tools they need to be successful in school and beyond. They support low income, pre-K Latino students by engaging both students and their parents in learning throughout the year.

## UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL GA – FIRST STEPS INITIATIVE

<https://www.unitedwaycg.org/>

Located in Macon, Georgia, United Way of Central Georgia's First Steps Initiative provides universal support services for all expectant parents and children from birth to age 5 and their families. The First Steps Initiative is for families with children under 5 or those expecting a child by providing early literacy education to parents.

## GEORGIA PUBLIC LIBRARY – PRIME TIME

<https://www.georgialibraries.org/news/articles.php?searchid=217>

The PRIME TIME Family Reading Time program brings families and children together to read and discuss award-winning, illustrated, and culturally diverse stories followed by discussion that encourages a love of reading and the library.

## BROOKS COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION

<http://brooks.gafcp.org/>

Located in Quitman, Georgia, Brooks County Family Connection is a local community development collaborative that works to improve outcomes of children, families and communities. Multigenerational programs focus on: book distribution and training for families about the importance of reading, literacy awareness in the community, and a new initiative providing books for the jail library.

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1. Jeynes, W. (2005). A meta-analysis of the relation of parental involvement to urban elementary school student academic achievement. *Urban Education* 40, 237-269.
  2. Karoly, L., Kilburn, R. & Cannon, J. (2005). *Children at risk: Consequences for school readiness and beyond*. Santa Monica, CA. RAND Corporation.
  3. Adult Literacy Facts. 2018. Retrieved June 12, 2018 from: <https://proliteration.org/Resources/Adult-Literacy-Facts>
  4. Hernandez, D. (2011) *Double Jeopardy: How third-grade reading skills and poverty influence high school graduation*. Baltimore, MD. Annie E. Casey Foundation