Racing to Read to Go

CREATING A COMMUNITY OF EARLY LITERACY

STEPHANIE SMALLWOOD, EARLY LITERACY SPECIALIST

SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY LIBRARY
Racing to Read to Go
20% of children in our community are not ready to learn when they start kindergarten.

This means that one in five children are behind on the very first day of school.

* Springfield Community Focus, 2013.
A Community Concern

Community Focus Report

Springfield’s 20 Year Strategic Plan

Mayor’s Commission for Children

Every Child Promise
A National Concern

• “As our nation commits to early learning as a national priority essential to our economic and civic future, it is time to become more intentional about deploying these vital community resources to this challenge.”

Outreach is the Key
WIC
The Ah-Ha! Moment

After working with WIC staff, they became:

• More knowledgeable.
• More interested.
• More intentional.
• The trainer.
Funding

National Leadership Grant
Direct Work with Families
Connect with Organizations
Current Partners

- WIC
- The Doula Foundation
- Springfield-Greene County Health Department – Maternal and Child Health Division
- The Loft
- Parenting Life Skills Center
- Alternative Opportunities
- Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation – Head Start Home Visits
- Parents as Teachers
- Jordan Valley Health Center – Care Coordinators
Join Us In Helping Kids Get Ready To Read

Literacy is a vital skill for every adult. Unfortunately, many children in our community are starting school without the skills they need to learn to read. There are easy things families can do beginning at birth to get their children ready to read, but many need knowledge and support to get started. Staff at community agencies and organizations can assist families by blending early literacy information into the important work you are already doing.

Racing to Read to Go, a new outreach program developed by the Springfield-Greene County Library District, brings early literacy information for parents to community organizations. The Library’s early literacy specialist will teach your staff about early literacy and ways to incorporate it into your interactions with families. We will also provide fun family programming for your clients that shows them how easy it is to get their children ready to read.

To learn more about Racing to Read to Go, contact Stephanie Smallwood at (417) 695-1900 or at stephaniee@kdl.org. By working together, we can create a literacy-focused community where every child is ready to read!

Services include:
- Workshop for staff targeted for your specific needs
- Two family early literacy programs
- All families participating receive free books for their children

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.
Cross Promotion
Family Programming

- Storytimes
- WIC Book Parties
- Book Explorations
- Make and Take Sessions
- Event Tables
- Workshops
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Benefits
Issues
Some Best Practices
Impact
This year we have:

- Reached 1220 family adults through trainings and programming.
- Trained 176 organizational staff members.
- Distributed 2882 books.
- With more to come next year!
Contact me with questions!

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