



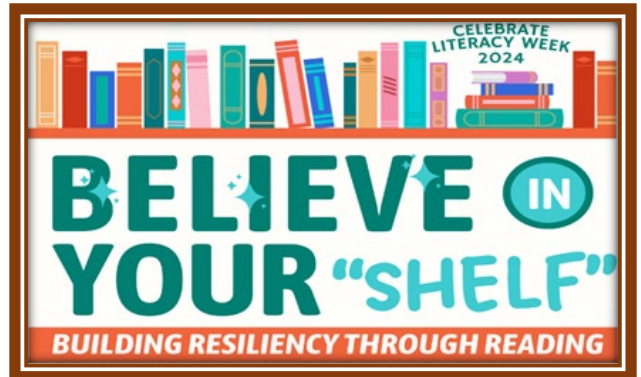
Celebrate Literacy!

The week of January 22 – 26, 2024 is designated by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) as [Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!](#) Literacy development is an important part of a child's education and it begins at birth. This year, our Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! theme is Believe In Your "Shelf"- Building Resiliency Through Reading!

With this theme in mind, the Division of Early Learning (DEL) is encouraging providers to participate in reading books to deepen children's knowledge, instill a love of reading and support the Resiliency Florida Initiative.

Please mark your calendar for the simultaneous reading activity on Wednesday, January 24, at 9 a.m. (EST). During the scheduled reading, parents and providers can spread the love of literacy in their homes, centers and schools by reading *The Little Butterfly that Could* (A Very Impatient Caterpillar Book) by Ross Burach.

Providers and parents are encouraged to engage their children in activities around the themes in the book.



Tips for Using CCR&R Resources

Parents:

- When reading to your child, use simple definitions to explain unfamiliar words.
- Make reading more engaging for your child by using expressions when you read aloud.
- Ask questions to get your child to talk about the book.

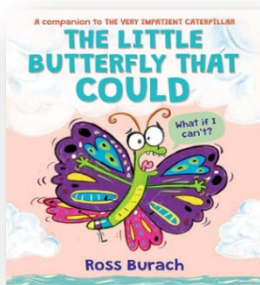
Providers:

- Offer a literacy workshop to share resources with teachers during staff meetings.
- Incorporate daily read-aloud sessions and age-appropriate language and literacy activities into the class schedule.

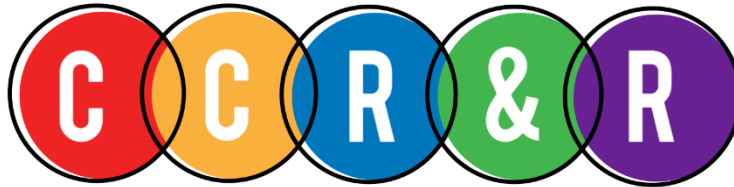
Coalitions:

- Create a reading zone in the coalition so children can easily access books and have a designated reading area.
- Share language and literacy resources with families and providers through newsletters and social media.

The Little Butterfly That Could by Ross Burach



Come fly away as you read this encouraging story about a butterfly, sharing the message if at first you don't succeed fly and fly again. Young children often can succeed with positive encouragement and persistence. The story includes science vocabulary words while sharing the process of metamorphosis, the life cycle of the butterfly.



Resources for Families and Providers

Early Literacy Resources for Parents

Literacy is the foundation for all learning. Infants, toddlers and preschoolers develop oral language and pre-literacy skills every day that help them become emerging readers. Use the resources and tips in this issue to help support children's literacy development at home.

- The Just Read, Florida! Initiative provides a wonderful resource. [Just Read, Families!](#) offers reading tips for parents to help inspire in their children a love of reading and learning.
- As a parent, you are your child's first teacher. The [Prekindergarten Family Guide](#) can help you know what to expect and some of the terminology you will see and hear when your child starts preschool or the Voluntary Prekindergarten program.
- Parents can select a book from the [Commissioner's Book of the Month](#) to read with their children. These books provide early learners a PreK book option.

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Parents of children who are not yet meeting age-appropriate standards can get support and free books through the [New Worlds Reading Initiative](#) (NWRI).

Families can create a personalized home library tailored to their child's unique interests with each book carefully selected to promote reading development.

The NWRI web page also includes professional learning and instructional resources for educators as well as toolkits to help spread the word about the initiative.

Do your part to encourage more family engagement in building reading skills in children who need a little extra support.



Making Reading Fun!

The Florida Education Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr.'s [Commissioner's Book of the Month](#) (fldoe.org) helps providers and parents build a library collection. The monthly reading challenge supports literacy and reading engagement while helping children succeed both academically and in life.



Early language, reading and writing development begin during the first three years of life and is closely related to a child’s experiences with books and stories. Young children’s interactions with literacy materials such as books, paper and crayons as well as interactions with the adults in their lives create the foundation for language, reading and writing development.

The [Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign](#) works to support local literacy campaigns, engage community, business and civic leaders, help promote school readiness and quality instruction, and engage parents as their child’s first teacher.

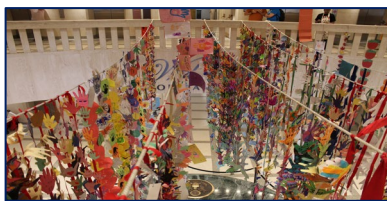
Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign Resources

The resources below contain easy-to-implement tips and strategies to help build early language and literacy skills in the classroom and at home.

Ask Children to Make Predictions During a Read Aloud

The tips in the short video [Quick Tips: Ask Children to Make Predictions During a Read Aloud](#) provides parents or teachers with tips on how to guide young children to guess or predict what a story will be about during transitions in a story.

Children’s Week Florida 2024 Coming Up! *Time for ‘Celebration of the Hands’*



Children’s Week Florida began over 20 years ago, and this year’s event takes place February 25 – March 1, 2024, in-person at the State Capitol. Annually, young children, their families and/or teachers create beautiful handprint artwork to exhibit in the Capitol Rotunda. This exhibit, entitled the “Celebration of the Hands,” remains on display throughout Children’s Week as a visual reminder that children are impacted by the policy decisions made by our legislators. Children’s Day will be observed on February 27 in the Capitol Courtyard and in the Rotunda. Throughout the day, attendees of all ages take part in interactive events and educational activities focusing on young children. The signature event is Storybook Village, which brings to life various children’s books through reading and activities.