



**Ready Readers**  
Muncie Public Library

# Raising Ready Readers

# Who's in the Zoom?

# Why Are You Here?

- Why did you choose to attend today?
- What are some of the literacy needs you see in your community?

# My Why

- Over the past six years I have worked with 140 children through literacy and reading tutoring sessions
- I have seen reading affect more than their school work
  - Self-Confidence
  - Behavior
  - Relationship with their parent/caregiver
- I have seen the benefits of the work
  - Increased reading levels
  - Better comprehension and vocabulary
  - Better fluency
  - Stronger confidence

# Today's Agenda

- Overview of the Ready Readers program
- The Data
- Effects of Low Reading Ability
- Why Libraries?
- Small staff, maximum impact
- Powerful Partnerships
- Our Success Stories
- FAQ's

# Ready Readers

- Free one-on-one literacy training/reading tutoring service that serves families with children ages 1-fifth grade through in-home, virtual, and library based sessions.
- Sessions last 30 mins and occur once a week as arranged by the parent/guardian
  - We target fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and increasing reading level
- Sessions are play/game based for all ages
- Current serving area
  - Muncie



# How RR Has Impacted MPL

- Our program brings in roughly 120 people into the library a month
- Helps create more library users
- Created positive PR



# Our Data

- According to the Indiana Youth Institute Kids Count Data Book
  - Indiana is ranked 40th in the country in the amount of 3 and 4 year old children enrolled in pre-k
    - 41% of children this age are enrolled in preschool
  - 37% of children are reading proficiently by the beginning of 4th grade
    - This is HIGHER than the national average of 31%



# The Effects of Low Reading Ability

- Students who are not reading on grade level by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are more likely to
  - Begin struggling in other subject areas
  - Dropout of high school
    - High school dropouts are more likely to participate in risk taking behaviors that lead to incarceration
- Those who have low reading ability or are functionally illiterate may have/experience:
  - Social challenges
  - Limited access to information
  - Less employment opportunities
  - Poorer health outcomes

# Why Libraries?

- Our environment
- Access
- Parent/child programming
- Our connections



# What We're Already Doing

- Story times following Every Child Ready to Read
- Community responsive programming
  - Basing programming off of the needs of the community
    - This applies to areas outside of literacy as well
- Providing new experiences/opportunities
- Stepping outside

# Small Staff Maximum Impact

- **Things you can do that do not require additional staff**
  - Review the Indiana Academic Standards
    - Keep these in mind while planning storytimes/ programs
  - Visit INView from the IDOE and learn about your local schools' performance
    - Partner with your school system in whatever way you can
      - Classroom collections for teachers
      - Kindergarten Readiness programs that add to or supplement the school systems own programs
- **Things you can do without additional staff, but that will take additional staff time**
  - Reading Resources service
  - Bi-annual literacy kits

# Small Staff Maximum Impact

- **Things you can do that are dependent on how many staff you have**
  - Get involved in local education coalitions, committees, and groups
  - Outreaches to local preschool, daycares, and elementary classrooms
  - Start a reading tutoring program like Ready Readers
    - This can be done with one part time or full time person dedicated to the position depending on how many kids you want to serve
    - It can also be done with 3-4 existing staff if you keep your enrollment small

# Powerful Partnerships

- Well established partnerships have been one of the driving factors in the Ready Readers program success
- Who we partner with
  - Community Centers
  - Afterschool Programs
  - Ball State University
  - Open Door Health Services
  - Too many nonprofits to be named

# The Most Powerful Partnership

Our Families and Students



# Thank you Elkhart!

- Allison McLean and Sonya Overman started a RR style program at their library
  - Growing Readers
    - Ages 3 years old- 2nd grade
- Their 20 spots filled in less than a month
  - Had a waitlist of over 40 students
  - Have begun adding more tutors



# FAQ's

- What is your role within the library?
- What does your staffing look like?
- Do you use volunteers?
- Do you use a set curriculum?
- What is your background?
- Are you grant funded?

# Contact Information

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