



Beloit's
**LITERACY
FOR LIFE**
Initiative

Why does it matter? Investing in early childhood literacy and being engaged in Beloit's Literacy for Life Initiative matters because the investment will pay major dividends for our communities' future. <https://gdcdcblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/wi-first-2000-days-infographic.pdf>

What can partners do to influence the culture of literacy in Beloit?

- Build traditions for literacy, learning, and prepare children for success
- Create traditions around literacy and learning
- Support families
- Influence the Beloit community

Possible suggestions for engagement

- Empowering families for literacy & language
 - "Talking is teaching" messaging
 - "Reading to your kids" messaging
- Books in the hands of kids and families
- Environmental signs in stores and around the community to promote talking
- Social media literacy and brain development messages
- Community infrastructure – Playground talking structures, billboards, and bus stops
- Volunteer for literacy programs and organizations
- Sponsor one of Beloit's Little Little Free Libraries or Beloit's Imagination Library
- Employee Wellness and Lunch and Learn programs for literacy and language development
- Analyze strengths of your organization's determination about how to promote literacy messages
- Community education & training about early literacy: vocabulary, math & reading
- Building on existing traditions while enhancing the importance of literacy



Beloit's Literacy for Life Initiative's local resource contacts:

Rachelle Elliott - relliott@sdb.k12.wi.us Director of Early Literacy for the SDB; (608) 361-2672
 Bill Flanagan - flanagan@beloit.edu - Executive Advisor to the President Emeritus: Beloit College
 Tara Tinder - tara@statelinecf.com - Executive Director of SCF; (608) 362-4228

Next monthly meeting is on Monday, June 4th at 7:30 am at the Beloit Public Library



Read Aloud 15 minutes - <http://www.readaloud.org/> - Downloaded materials are free and can be taken to any printer. Please sign-up on the website and show how many of Beloit's organizations are using the materials. ReadAloud 15 is displayed on pages.....



TALKING IS TEACHING

Talking is Teaching from the Too Small to Fail Foundation - <http://talkingisteaching.org/> - Downloaded materials are free and can be taken to any printer. Please sign up on the website to have access to all of the "Talking is Teaching Communities" exclusives. Talking is Teaching is displayed on pages.....

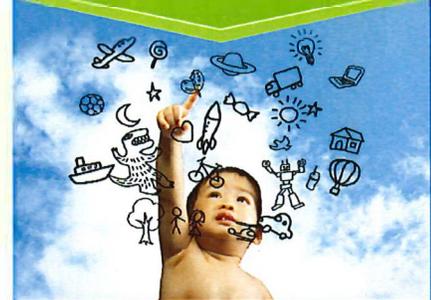
FEATURED RESOURCES



Early Learning Investments Are Essential to Wisconsin's Future. Military, business and law enforcement leaders are calling for greater investments in young children to ensure our national security, build our economic well-being and reduce crime.



WHY EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT?



There are only **2,000 days** between the time a baby is born and when he or she will begin kindergarten.

During that time brain architecture is forming.

Every experience a baby has forms a **neural connection** (synapse) in the brain. **700 synapses** per second are formed in the early years.

Not all will last. Connections that are used **more are strengthened** and those that are **not are pruned** providing either a **strong** or **weak foundation** for all future health and learning.

The early years are **so defining** that by the time **children turn eight**, their third grade **outcomes can predict** future academic **achievement** and career **success**.

WHY NATIONAL SECURITY?



70% of Americans aged 17 to 24 cannot meet the military's eligibility requirements.

In Wisconsin, That's **OVER**

450,000



young Wisconsinites **UNABLE TO JOIN** the military.

WHY ECONOMIC WELL BEING?



DO NOT have the basic education and communication skills required to acquire and advance in jobs.



Employers have concerns about employees' ability to communicate and collaborate effectively and creatively.

WHY CRIME REDUCTION?



At-risk children who didn't receive a high-quality early childhood education were **70%** more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18.

In FY 2017, Wisconsin's Department of Corrections was appropriated over:

\$1.2 BILLION

WE KNOW WHAT WORKS! >>>

Early Child Development Investments Produce Results!

Decades of research has identified programs proven to work for young children.



Higher reading & math scores. A 2011 Duke University study found children had higher third grade reading and math scores in counties that received more funding for early care and education programs when those children were younger.



Higher graduation rates. High-quality early childhood programs increase graduation rates by as much as 44%.



Better health. A study of children who participated in the Carolina Abecedarian early learning program found participants experienced fewer illnesses as adults, made healthier lifestyle choices, had lower rates of high blood pressure, and had significantly lower risk of heart disease than the control group that did not participate.



Greater self-sufficiency. Voluntary home visiting programs reduce health care costs, improve school readiness and success, reduce need for remedial education and increase family self-sufficiency. Those who participated in high-quality early childhood programs will pay more taxes and be less likely to rely on government assistance.



Higher salaries. At-risk children who participated in a high-quality early childhood program were more likely to be employed and earned 33% higher average salaries.



Less crime. At-risk children who participated in a high-quality early childhood program were significantly less likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18.



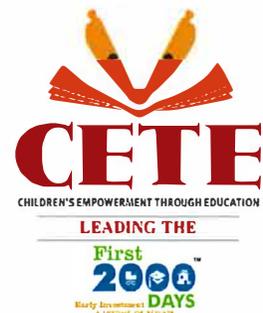
7-10% Return on Investment. Every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education produces a 7-10% annual return.

References for all statistics are available online at www.cetewisconsin.org/toolkit.

Learn more...



cetewisconsin.org



BUILD BABY'S BRAIN WITH BOOKS!

From birth to 12 months it's all about...
SOUNDS, WORDS & FEELINGS!

NEWBORN

Start now! A nurturing family routine of reading aloud every day from birth will help your baby feel safe, loved, and ready for school and life.



Read aloud slowly and exaggerate sounds.

Babies love books with real pictures and bold contrasts.



1-2 MONTHS

Smile! Babies love faces and making emotional connections with people. They look, they listen, they feel...

2-5 MONTHS

Oohs and ahhs! Your baby's coos are more than cute – they're vowels! By practicing with loved ones, your baby is figuring out which sounds are important to learn to talk.



Chewing books is normal - a sign of teething! Let baby explore sturdy board books by holding them, turning pages and even tasting!

5-9 MONTHS

A babbling brook... Through all of that drool, you'll hear "mama," "dada," "baba," and more. Your baby is practicing consonants, new sounds to help them talk.



Reading aloud together is so important to develop your baby's vocabulary. Beyond favorite books, pick new ones that provide new words and experiences. All of these words add up quickly!

9-12 MONTHS

Talk to me! Like magic, all of a sudden your baby starts putting those coo (vowel) and babble (consonant) sounds together to make wonderful words!



DR. JOHN S. HUTTON

Pediatrician & Assistant Professor
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Reading & Literacy Discovery Center

It isn't just baby's body that is growing this first year — baby's brain is developing even more rapidly! Give your baby the best start by reading aloud every day, for at least **15 MINUTES**, right from birth.



Read Aloud
15 MINUTES

Learn more at
ReadAloud.org

DISCONNECT TO CONNECT

Smartphones and tablets are an inescapable reality of today's world – we love and need them. They give us the power to connect with family, friends, and our work.

HOWEVER, when it comes to our children – from birth through to third grade – these devices can become a barrier to direct interaction. It is time to **DISCONNECT TO CONNECT**.

It's simple...

Young children only learn language through **interacting with parents and loved ones who talk, read, and sing to them.**

Reading aloud introduces new words, grammar and concepts that may not be used in regular talking. An average children's book may have around 500 words – **these add up fast!**

There is no substitute for **YOU**. You are your child's first and most important teacher.

There is no such thing as 'too old' for reading aloud. **Don't stop when they start school.** Even independent readers benefit greatly from reading aloud with a loved one.

For your child's sake, make device-free time for your family and be sure to read aloud for at least 15 minutes every day.



Read Aloud
15 MINUTES
Every child. Every parent. Every day.

Learn more at ReadAloud.org



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YOUR CHILD IS GROWING IN WAYS



HEARING & UNDERSTANDING

- Understands words for order, such as *first*, *next*, and *last*.
- Understands words for time, such as *yesterday*, *today*, and *tomorrow*.
- Follows longer directions, such as "Get the box of crayons, find some paper, and pick out three colors."
- Understands most of what is said at home and at school.



TALKING

- Says all speech sounds in words. May make mistakes on some sounds, such as *l*, *s*, *r*, *v*, *z*, *j*, *ch*, *sh*, and *th*.
- Names letters and numbers.
- Tells a short story.
- Talks in different ways depending on the listener and place. Uses short sentences with younger children and talks louder outside than inside.

TALK! ASK! ENCOURAGE!

How can you help your child learn?

Talk about what happens *first*, *next*, and *last* in books.

Ask *why* questions, such as "Why do we need to eat breakfast?"

Encourage your child to express opinions and describe feelings.

TALKING IS
TEACHING



LISTENING IS
LEARNING

Use the correct sounds in your own speech. Your child may have trouble saying certain sounds and is listening to you.

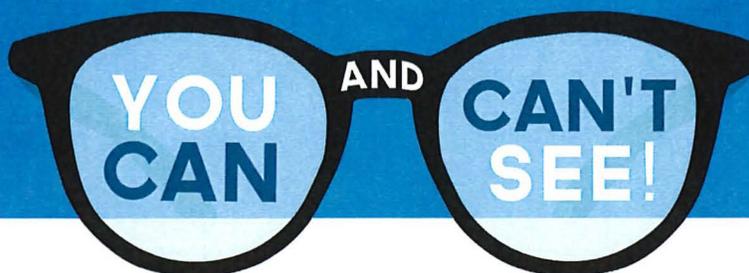
Listen to music and sing songs together. Sing nursery rhymes, songs that repeat words, and songs that tell a story.

Help your child listen for details. Tell stories and ask questions.

Get help if you have concerns about your child's hearing or talking.

Visit IdentifytheSigns.org for more information.

YOUR CHILD IS GROWING IN WAYS



That's why... reading aloud is so important!

Listening and learning. Your child is able to sit still and focus for even longer stories.

That's why... You — *and* your child — can choose from a variety of books that introduce new ideas, words, and feelings. Relate the story to your child's own life. Use books to begin conversations about new experiences.

Print is everywhere! Your child is starting to recognize letters and numbers, learn letter names and sounds, and copy letters and numbers in writing.

That's why... It's great to run your finger under the words as you read. Ask your child to identify letters and letter sounds, and point out words and pictures with similar sounds. Say the letters in your child's name. Practice writing his name together.

Let's go to the library! From story times to summer programs, from picture books to early readers, your library has books that will help your family.

That's why... A library card is a must-have. Plan a trip to the library and let your child pick out books. Listen to story time. Encourage a love of the library, learning, and reading.

Hey, that line is a rhyme! Your child is learning how to recognize and make rhymes.

That's why... Reading aloud in a fun way can help your child learn. Choose books with repeated phrases and rhymes, and pause the story to allow your child to finish a familiar line.

DID YOU KNOW...

When you read aloud you're giving your child:

- More vocabulary
- An understanding of how books and reading work
- Knowledge about the world and people
- Food for the imagination
- Memories of your special time together
- A love of reading and learning that will last a lifetime



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

Read Aloud 15 MINUTES and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association are proud to collaborate on this initiative to reach parents of young children.



Read Aloud
15 MINUTES
Every child. Every parent. Every day.

Let's Talk Playgrounds

Better playgrounds. Better world.®





Promoting Literacy Through Playground Designs

We're proud to partner with **Too Small to Fail's Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing** campaign to reach parents to help boost their young children's early language development. Together, we'll promote children's early brain and vocabulary development through play and playgrounds.

Research shows that simple, everyday interactions such as talking, reading, and singing to young children—especially during the first five years of life—can improve language skills, boost brain development and have a lifelong positive impact. With the **“Talking is Teaching” playground panels**, parents can help their children get ready for kindergarten and set them up for success in school and in life.

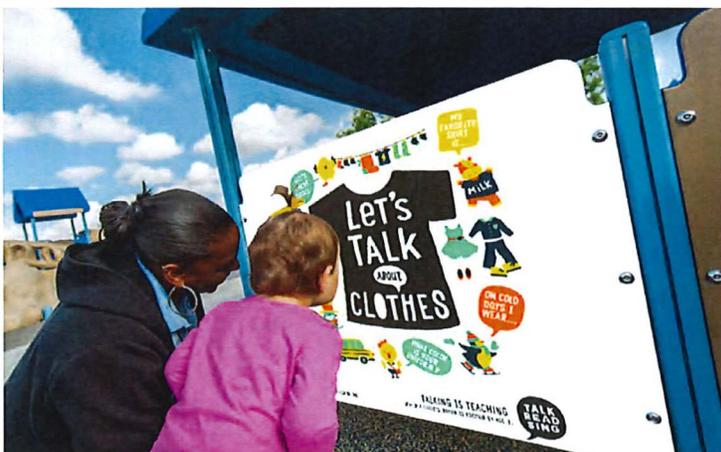
Playground designs featuring “Talking is Teaching” panels incorporate topics that are relatable to this young age group—bedtime, feelings, colors, shapes, numbers and more. The designs provide room for language-rich interactions among children and their caregivers as well as encourage social play among all children.



This sample playstructure is designed with a variety of age-appropriate activities and encourages conversation between caregivers and children.



Smart design and strategically placed panels encourage vocabulary-rich conversations among caregivers and their kids while they play.



Expert-advised graphic panels

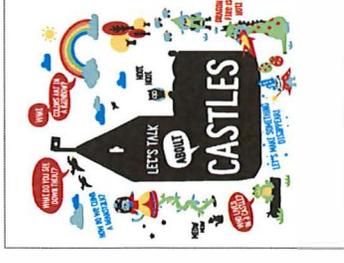
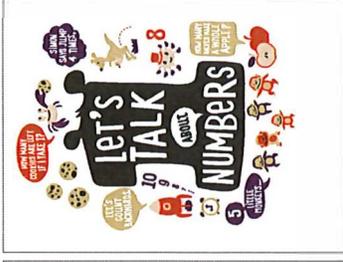
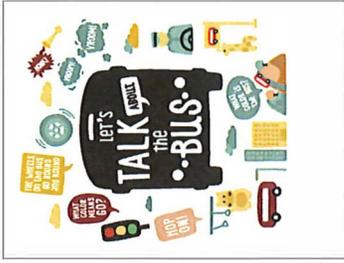
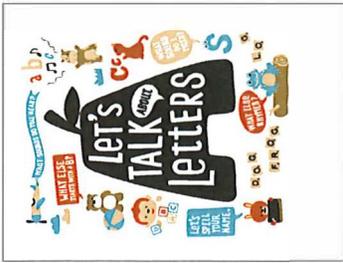
Learn more about the Too Small to Fail initiative by visiting toosmall.org, and find tools and resources for parents and caregivers at talkingisteaching.org.



Since 1971, Landscape Structures has been committed to enhancing children's lives by fostering and creating inspiring play experiences while honoring the environment. We create innovative playground equipment to inspire children to grow strong bodies and minds so their futures remain bright. And to further ensure a better tomorrow, we are sensitive to the environment through manufacturing practices that minimize our impact on the earth. Our goal from day one has been to foster healthy children playing in healthy communities year after year, generation after generation.



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WELCOME TO THE
PATTERN PARTY!

WHAT COMES NEXT?



EVERYDAY MOMENTS BECOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES
WHEN YOU COMPARE SHAPES AND SIZES!

Learning begins at birth!
Talk, read and sing with your baby every day.
Learn more at talkingisteaching.org

PARTNER LOGO



LET'S TALK ABOUT MATH



EVERYDAY FUN WITH PATTERNS

Did you know that your child begins developing early math skills starting at birth—simply through the daily routines and activities you share together? A child's growing ability to notice, create, describe, and predict **patterns** in the world around them is one of these skills.

From birth to five, children develop an understanding of patterns as they:

- Recognize daily patterns like a familiar bedtime routine or the predictable green, yellow, red of a traffic light;
- Match and sort objects by shape, size or color;
- Create patterns using toys or materials they find in the world in around them;
- Describe the patterns they see and create; and
- Know what comes next in a pattern—placing a blue block on a red-blue-red-blue-red stack.

Young children learn about patterns through play with you. By pointing out patterns you see in the world and making patterns part of playtime, you help your little one learn and practice this important skill.

PARENT-CHILD ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT PATTERN LEARNING

0-12 MONTHS

Establish predictable daily routines for bedtime, mealtime and naptime. You might say: "It's time for bed. We'll have milk, a story, and a kiss. Then—bedtime." Loving routines help babies feel safe and secure, and also build an early understanding of patterns

12- 24 MONTHS

Sing songs that have repetitive patterns, such as "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," "Wheels on the Bus," or "Los Cincos Hermanitos." Try rhymes with movement patterns that your child can imitate, like "Itsy-Bitsy Spider" or "Saco Una Manito/Una Manita." Share stories with patterns like Over in the Meadow, The Napping House, or Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?

24-36 MONTHS

Play matching and sorting games during your everyday routines. Your toddler can help sort socks into two piles—little socks for him and big socks for Mommy and Daddy. Then, together, find the matching pairs: "Do you see another sock with red stripes?" When you get home from the supermarket, ask your toddler to put the oranges in one bowl and apples in another.

3-5 YEARS

Make patterns part of the everyday routines you share with your preschooler. Ask him to help you set the table and talk about the pattern of napkin, fork, and spoon. At snack time, see if your preschooler can finish her "snack pattern" of "strawberry, cracker, cheese, strawberry, cracker, and...what comes next?" As you walk to the bus stop, use a big-step, little-step pattern.

YOU CAN FIND MORE TIPS LIKE THESE—AS WELL AS VIDEOS, INFORMATION, AND MORE—AT
TALKINGISTEACHING.ORG OR ZEROTOTHREE.ORG.



ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

