



Friday, July 23, 2021
Hybrid Meeting (BPL / Zoom) 9-10:00 a.m.

Present: Bill Flanagan, Tara Tinder, Katharine Clark, Gloria Heiss, Danica Keeton, Jan Knutson, Kayla Oestreich, Kathy Pohl, Mary Porter, Lisa Sandoval, and Sue Stein

1) Welcome and Announcements from Tara Tinder, Executive Director, SCF

Brain bags are finally ready for distribution to our health partners (shout out once again to Adaptive Alliance who assembled AND delivered the finished products). Moving forward, Tara hopes for a corporate sponsor to oversee funding for this project. In tandem with the video (training required) and texting program, it is a formidable combination. Unfortunately, our resource & affiliation pot is not as extended as Quint Studer's, whose connection with University of Chicago has been golden! An appreciation to Lisa who has also offered to include useful contact information in future bags. In other news, Community Impact Grant requests at SCF have been fully funded, thanks in part to additional funding by private donors.

2) Program Updates: Bill Flanagan, BLFLI Chair

Bill attributed recent BLFLI success to multiple factors: a consolidated Powerpoint; our base is ground up, not top down; guidance and input from Mary Stuedemann (former SDB Literacy Hero); and Gloria's bookmobile efforts. Additional reference was made to the Reach Out and Read program adopted by Beloit Health System. With the new addition of the brain bags, the video to new parents and the texting program, we will finally be able to focus on development from the shoulders up and not only the shoulders down! The collaboration with PBS in a 5-year literacy project with local schools and NPO's will also broaden our audience and reach. We look forward to having a representative at future BLFLI Partner meetings, supporting a return to more robust, in person conversations. The energy in the room is always vital to future success!

As a visible arm of the NPO's in our community, Gloria reported on her 10-week bookmobile project. Her vision to supply up to 2,000 books is well underway! Thus far, 600+ books targeting up to Grade 4 reading levels have been distributed, along with bookmarks, math materials, coloring pages and Scoopie tokens. Books were initially ordered in bulk, with a second order to focus more on higher quality books. Kayla has been overseeing nearly 2-3 events per week, with the addition of several bus route stops. On July 29th, Hilary Gavan from the Beloit Daily News will be present at their Merrill/Community Action event to interview them for a future article. Lastly, Gloria is working on a presentation honing in specifically on the bookmobile, leading to a budget proposal on "what's next?" Tara suggested the Women's Fund has a keen interest in literacy projects and while they can't afford in full, would certainly contribute towards the future!

3) Literacy Advocacy Materials & Resources

A handout in [English](#) & [Spanish](#) was made available to attendees, reinforcing to parents that "the time is now" to read to their children! The [Read Aloud](#) site has a free, printable August calendar.

4) Partner Reports:

- **Katharine Clark (Beloit Public Library)** Playdates are returning, and the library is thrilled to acquire a new early childhood intern!
- **Danica Keeton (Community Health Systems)** They are sponsoring 2 “Back to School” events on August 10th & August 24th, hoping to distribute over 200 backpacks along with books from the bookmobile! See their flyer below...
- **Jan Knutson/Kathy Pohl (St. Paul Soup Lunch)** They’ve served on average 115 lunches each week, although mostly to adults. Book carts are out and over 22 kid books (3rd/4th grade reading level) have been taken. The bookmobile has also paid 2 visits to St. Paul this summer!
- **Kayla Oestreich (Community Action Daycare)** She is also participating in the PBS program!
- **Mary Porter (Co-President of BAREA)** The Beloit Area Retired Educator Association is looking forward to a BLFLI presentation by Bill & Tara at their annual meeting in September.
- **Lisa Sandoval (Early Start/Head Start)** They too are participating in PBS trainings, and also helped facilitate the “[Molly of Denali](#)” program held at the Beloit Public Library earlier this year.
- **Sue Stein (Nutrition Health & Associates)** While they are open and ready, the USDA dictates that clients receive services at home. They regret not coordinating with the bookmobile, but can report distribution of over 600 books this past year, including 200 to pregnant mothers and 62 in Spanish. Via WIC, she is also able to supply bags to new moms to accompany the BLFLI brain bags! Lastly, congratulations to Sue, who was asked to join the [Early Literacy Taskforce](#) in Janesville, headed up by Angela Lynch of the Janesville School District. Through this, there will be training for parents on how to read to their children.

5) **Calendar:** Next meeting date is **Friday, August 27th, 2021 at 9 a.m.** in the BPL Community Room. In person attendance is highly encouraged for improved communication!

(Please indicate if you prefer a Zoom option when you RSVP to Jamie@statelinecf.com)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jamie Gurholt on 08/05/2021

Kayla spreading literacy love at Krueger Park!



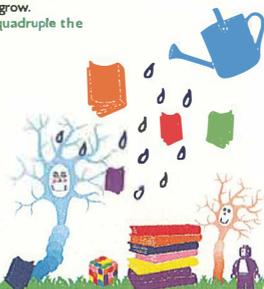
Parents, it's up to you!

The first few years of life are critical in your child's brain development. Make the most of this window. *If you wait, it's too late.*

- Your baby's brain is making literally trillions of connections during the first few years, the fastest it will ever grow.
- Children are rapidly learning language. They often quadruple the number of words they know between ages 1-2.
- Babies learn best through interactions. There is no substitute for YOU.



Babies are born with about 100 billion neurons; by age 3 there will be about 1,000 trillion connections between them.

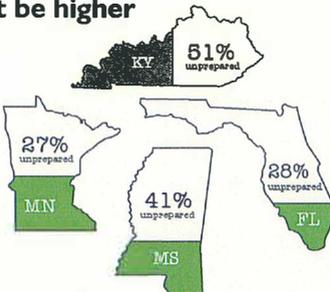
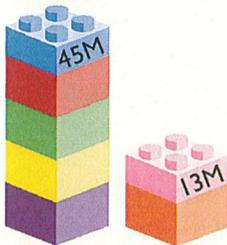


The stakes could not be higher

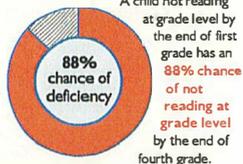
Dodge the word gap

Some children will hear 30 million fewer words than their peers before age 4. Studies have shown the number of words a child knows when entering kindergarten is predictive of future learning success.

Hart and Risley 2003



Avoid the slippery slope



Those not reading proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school.



Get ready to learn

Too many children in the U.S. are not prepared to learn when they enter kindergarten. Studies show that those who fall behind are likely to stay that way.

Kenixsky.com | FloridaEarlyLearning.com | Education.state.mn.us | kidscount.usrc@state.edu | Shankoff and Phillips 2000 | Carnegie Foundation 1991

Jul 1968 | Arnie E. Casey Foundation, 2012

Light up your child's brain!



Read aloud 15 MINUTES every day from birth to:

- Grow vocabulary and knowledge
- Bond and provide enriching engagement
- Foster a love of books and learning

You are your child's first and most important teacher. Read Aloud every day, from birth, for at least 15 MINUTES and light up your child's brain.



If you wait, it's too late.



Padres, ¡les toca a ustedes!

Los primeros años de vida son críticos en el desarrollo del cerebro de su hijo.

Aproveche al máximo esta oportunidad. Si espera, puede ser demasiado tarde.

- Durante los primeros años, el cerebro de su bebé está haciendo literalmente trillones de conexiones, nunca más crecerá tan rápido.
- Los niños están aprendiendo rápidamente un idioma. Entre las edades de 1-2 frecuentemente se cuadruplican el número de palabras que conocen.
- Los bebés aprenden mejor a través de las interacciones. USTED no tiene sustituto.



Los bebés nacen con aproximadamente 100 mil millones de neuronas; a los 3 años, tendrán cerca de 1,000 billones de conexiones entre ellas.

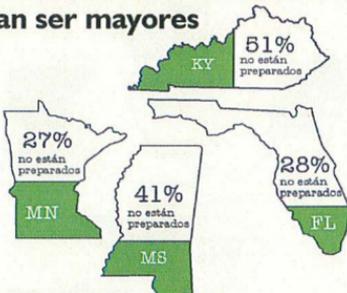
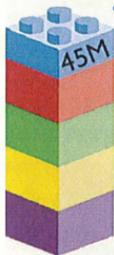


Los riesgos no podrían ser mayores

Evite la diferencia de palabras

Algunos niños escucharán 30 millones de palabras menos que sus compañeros antes de los 4 años. Los estudios han demostrado que el número de palabras que un niño sabe cuando entra al kínder predice el éxito del aprendizaje futuro.

Hart and Risley 2003

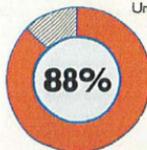


Prepárelos para aprender

Demasiados niños en los Estados Unidos no están preparados para aprender cuando entran al kínder. Los estudios muestran que los que se quedan atrás son propensos a permanecer de esa manera.

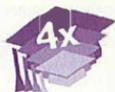
KennedyKosm | FloridaEarly Learning | Education.state.mn.us | kidscount.org; mezzala.edu | Shankoff and Phillips 2000 | Carnegie Foundation 1991

Evite el callejón sin salida



Un niño que no lee a nivel de grado al final del primer grado tiene un 88% de posibilidades de no leer a nivel de grado para el final del cuarto grado.

Los que no leen proficientemente al tercer grado son cuatro veces más propensos de abandonar la escuela.



Juli 1988 | Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2012

¡Haga brillar el cerebro de su hijo!

Leer en voz alta durante 15 MINUTOS cada día desde su nacimiento:

- Aumenta el vocabulario y el conocimiento
- Establece vínculos y proporciona una enriquecedora interacción
- Fomenta el amor por los libros y el aprendizaje

Usted es el primer y más importante maestro de su hijo. Léale desde que nace en voz alta todos los días, por lo menos durante 15 MINUTOS y hará que su cerebro brille.



Si espera, puede ser demasiado tarde.

