

Focus on Literacy Program

OBJECTIVE:

Educate members and others about rates of low literacy and stimulate citizen action to address impact and concerns related to literacy

ACTION PLAN

ADULT LITERACY

CLUB/COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- o Examine factors in the community that may affect literacy levels, such as:
 - Existence of learning disabilities
 - English not the individual's native language
 - Formal education terminated early
 - Visual difficulties, or physical or mental conditions that inhibit learning
- o Talk with community officials, school officials, and others to assess the problem.
- o Educate club/community about low literacy issues in the area.
- o Invite members of the literacy community to speak to club members.
- o Invite newly-literate adults to speak to the club about their challenges and new opportunities.
- o Determine where the club members could be most valuable.
- o Become familiar with low literacy statistics on the local and national levels.

IDENTIFY, RECRUIT, AND TRAIN TUTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

- o Identify and recruit qualified, capable adults as potential tutors from among club members and the community at large.
- o Contact ProLiteracy to learn what qualifications are needed to become a tutor and find out what the responsibilities include. (See Resources)
- o Identify tutor training opportunities in the community or region. (See Resources)
- o Survey club members; identify trained tutors and those interested in being trained.
- o Investigate community resources to identify others interested in being trained as tutors (e.g., friends, college students, members of places of worship, etc.).
- o Enlist the local media to help recruiting efforts.
- o Recruit tutors by distributing brochures at libraries, grocery stores, malls, athletic clubs and other community locations. Speak to groups at places of worship, government offices, senior centers, colleges, and other places where community citizens congregate.
- o Involve former teachers, tutors, and others with relevant skills. Use them to enhance, advise, or promote the literacy program.
- o Visit the National Center for Family Literacy website (www.FamLit.org) for information regarding online tutor training. (See Resources)

IDENTIFY AND RECRUIT STUDENTS

- o Become familiar with the literacy needs of the community.
- o Contact local literacy centers and adult education programs.
- o Work with government groups such as human services officers, parole officers, social services workers, correctional institutions, and others.



WHAT IS D.E.A.R. DAY, AND WHO DOES IT HONOR? *D.E.A.R. stands for Drop Everything and Read, and is celebrated each year on April 12, the birthday of beloved children's author Beverly Cleary.*





Focus on Literacy Program

- o Establish a comprehensive recruiting system. Be sure to include literacy and adult education referrals, media, government offices, places of worship, women's organizations, employment offices, etc.

FAMILY LITERACY

CLUB/COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- o Examine factors surrounding family literacy.
- o Contact the National Center for Family Literacy for resources and information. Visit www.FamLit.org.
- o Learn about issues related to low literacy, including poverty, lack of education, and lack of self-esteem.
- o Encourage activities that are directed at supporting family literacy, such as:
 - Promoting interactive literacy activities between parents and children
 - Training for parents on how to be a teaching parent of a learning child
 - Advocating parent listening training
 - Improving early childhood education

YOUTH LITERACY

CLUB/COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- o Support the collection and distribution of books to schools, libraries, literacy centers, etc. (See Resources)
- o Celebrate National Author's Day on November 1, which was established in 1929 by GFWC and made an official day of celebration by the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1949.
- o Participate in The Dictionary Project by giving dictionaries to students in local schools. Visit www.DictionaryProject.org.
- o Support First Book. Visit www.FirstBook.org. (See Resources)
- o Investigate Reading Rockets at www.ReadingRockets.org, a website that presents information to parents, teachers, and tutors on how to help struggling readers.
- o Bring children to a special club meeting or event. Present them with books and read to them.
- o Celebrate Drop Everything and Read Day on April 12. Visit www.DropEverythingAndRead.com.
- o Inform teachers about www.Teachers.net, a site for teachers from Read Across America.
- o Investigate whether or not your school has a parent-teacher organization. Look at www.PTA.org or other groups that might interest your school. For information on how to start a parent-teacher organization, visit www.PTOToday.com.
- o Investigate Teen Read Week, an American Library Association initiative. Celebrated annually the third week of October, events can be held at public and school libraries and at bookstores across the country. Visit www.ALA.org for more information.
- o Participate in the Heart of America's Books From the Heart program. Visit www.HeartOfAmerica.org. Register your club's book drive on the Heart of America website and receive a certificate.
- o Become a member of the NEA's Read Across America. Visit www.NEA.org/ReadAcross.
- o Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2; read to children in local schools and libraries. (See Resources)
- o Support Reach Out and Read by donating gently used books, giving donations, and volunteering. Visit www.ReachOutAndRead.org. (See Resources)

TUTORING

- o Investigate needs within the community by working with school officials.
- o Identify schools that would benefit from tutoring programs.
- o Develop a process for involving parents, teachers, grandparents, and other community members.





Focus on Literacy Program

- o Develop a plan to recruit, train, and evaluate tutors.
- o Survey club members and identify those interested in becoming tutors.
- o Investigate other tutor resources such as places of worship, neighborhood groups, and civic groups.
- o Hold tutor sessions. Work with literacy groups. (See Resources)
- o Contact Reading Rockets at AskRR@ReadingRockets.org with any questions regarding information that would assist a tutor in teaching a child to read.
- o Investigate Book Adventure, a free resource to motivate kids in grades K-8 to read. See www.BookAdventure.org

RESOURCES

BOOK ADVENTURE

W: www.bookadventure.org

CENTER FOR THE BOOK

The Library of Congress | Washington, DC 20540-4920

P: 202/707-5221 | F: 202/707-0269 | W: LCWeb.LOC.gov/LOC/CFBook

Contact: Anne Boni | aboni@loc.gov

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

W: www.DropEverythingAndRead.com

FIRST BOOK

1319 F ST NW Suite 1000 | Washington, DC 20004

P: 866/READ-NOW | P: 202/393-1222 | F: 202/628-1258 | W: www.FirstBook.org

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES, USA

BOOKS FOR BABIES PROGRAM

1420 Walnut ST, STE 450 | Philadelphia, PA 19102

P: 800/936-5872 | P: 215/790-1674 | F: 215/545-3821 | W: www.FOLUSA.com

Contact: Beth Nawalinski

HEART OF AMERICA FOUNDATION/ BOOKS FROM THE HEART PROGRAM

401 F ST NW, STE 325 | Washington, DC 20001

P: 202/347-6278 | F: 202/347-8599 | W: www.HeartOfAmerica.org

Contact: Melissa Chin

INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

800 Barksdale Road, PO BOX 8139 | Newark, DE 19714-8139

P: 302/731-1600 ext. 293 | F: 302/731-1057 | W: www.Reading.org

Contact: Janet Butler, Public Information Office | jbutler@reading.org





Focus on Literacy Program

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

1509 16th ST NW | Washington, DC 20036-1426
P: 202/232-8777 | P: 800/424-2460 | W: www.NAEYC.org
Contact: Pat Spahr

NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY LITERACY (NCFL)

Waterfront Plaza, STE 200, 325 W. Main ST | Louisville, KY 40202-4251
P: 502/584-1133 | P: 877/326-5481 | F: 502/584-0172 | W: www.FamLit.org

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY

1775 I ST NW, STE 730 | Washington, DC 20006
P: 202/233-2025 | F: 202-233-2050 | W: www.NIFL.gov

PROLITERACY WORLDWIDE

1320 Jamesville AVE | Syracuse, NY 13210
P: 315/422-9121 ext. 353 | F 315/422-6369 | E: bkogut@proliteracy.org | W: www.PROLiteracy.org

REACH OUT AND READ NATIONAL CENTER

56 Roland ST, STE 100D | Boston, MA 02129
P: 617/455-0600 | F: 617/455-0601 | W: www.ReachOutAndRead.org

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL, INC.

1825 Connecticut AVE NW, STE 400 | Washington, DC 20009
P: 1-877-RIF-READ | W: www.RIF.org
Contact: Gabrielle Miller, Director of Programs

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

400 Maryland AVE SW | Washington, DC 20202-7240
F: 202/205-8794
Contact: Christine Camillo, Program Specialist | christine_camillo@ed.gov

ED PUBS

EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS CENTER

U.S. Department of Education PO BOX 1398 | Jessup, MD 20794-1398
P: 877/433-7827 (Publications) | P: 800/872-5327 (Education Resource Center) | F: 301/470-1244
E: edpubsorders@edpubs.org (ordering materials) | E: usa_learn@ed.gov (general information)
W: www.EdPubs.org





Focus on Literacy Program

READ ACROSS AMERICA

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

1201 16th ST | Washington, DC 20036

E: readacross@nea.org | W: www.NEA.org/ReadAcross

Contact: Anita Merina

AWARDS

GFWC CLUB AWARD

GFWC will award \$50 annually to one club in the nation to recognize creativity in implementing the Focus on Literacy Program. The award will be based on report narratives. State chairmen should forward the winning state entry to the appropriate national GFWC Focus on Literacy Program Chairman by March 15 of each year.

GFWC STATE AWARD

GFWC will award a certificate to one state federation in each membership category to recognize outstanding achievement in the GFWC Focus on Literacy program. Awards will be made annually in honor of junior and general membership participation.

