READING IS THE KEY TO SUCCEEDING
Economics Matter

- By 18 months, low-income toddlers are already several months behind more advantaged children in language proficiency.

- By age 4, low-income children would have heard 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers.

Source: Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Closing the 30 Million Word Gap

One of the ways to make progress from birth is to educate parents and caretakers about closing the word gap. Research shows that children born into low-income families hear about 30 million fewer words than more affluent peers. This is one of the compounding factors of the overall achievement gap. One way to close the gap is to read and talk to children as much as possible.

Denise Roberts, an initiative consultant for The Patterson Foundation working on the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, shared an interesting story that many of you may be able to relate to or learn from.

"While I have professional experience in teaching children to read, the single most important thing to know about me is that I am grandmother to Derrick James, who was born on March 21, 2014.

The second thing to know is that I am sure Derrick says to himself, 'Doesn't she ever stop talking?' No, I don't stop talking!

When we are changing outfits, I describe every motion to him: 'Now I'm taking your left arm out of the left sleeve of your red and blue striped shirt.' When we are playing: 'Now I am stacking the purple cup on top of the green cup. Do you see the elephant on the purple cup? Do you see the monkey on the green cup?' And, of course, when we are reading: 'Why do you think Spot likes to play ball with his friends?' And I am constantly counting with him: 'One orange circle, two aqua squares, three pink triangles.'

Derrick has a large collection of Beanie Buddies that give us lots to talk about.

'This one is a San Diego Charger. San Diego is a beautiful city in California. His Chargers uniform is blue and white with a gold lightning bolt.'

This is how I talked to my children when they were babies. Later, I became a K-12 reading specialist and learned that what I did instinctively as a parent was what the experts said was the right thing to do.
As Derrick gets older, he'll talk more and I'll listen more. He will stack the cups himself and tell me which animal is on which color cup. He will count the shapes for me and tell me what colors they are as he puts them in the shape-sorter. We'll go to a map to see exactly where San Diego is and we'll try to find out if there's a lot of lightning there. He'll be able to read the Spot books to me and take off his own blue and red striped shirt. And, when it's bedtime, we'll read Goodnight Moon to each other.”

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A Learning Adventure Designed to Help You and Your Children Thrive

Mind in the Making's (MITM) Seven Essential Skills Training Modules draw on brain development research to inform practices that lead to better outcomes for children through the promotion of essential skills. Each module provides participants the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and practices, learn what researchers have discovered about how children learn best and discuss how to apply this research in their role as a parent, caregiver, or educator.

The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is committed to bringing this important resource to parents, grandparents, child care professionals, early learning educators, and caregivers. If you are interested in individually participating in Mind in the Making workshops, or would like to have a series of workshops at your place of employment, church, or community organization, please contact the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. For individuals looking to register for MITM during the months of July, August, or September, click the links below for further information on dates, time, and location.

Mind in the Making Cohorts Currently Registering
1. MITM Flyer Team Marvel
2. MITM Flyer Team Noble

Share the Newsletter

Research shows us that the first five years of a child's life are a critical time for brain development and the basis for future success. We look forward to sharing engaging news and updates with you related to the earliest years of life. The Patterson
Foundation respects your privacy and will not share or sell your contact information.

To be added to the 0-5 Express newsletter distribution list or if there is information you are interested in learning more about, email SCGLR.

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Lead

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We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net