



Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR):  
0-5 Express

September 2019

**SAVE THE DATE!  
"BRAIN MATTERS"**

**An International Documentary with a Local Connection**



[BRAIN MATTERS \[OFFICIAL TRAILER\]](#)  
(total time: 2 minutes)

*"Our brains may change several times during our lifespan, but our brain only gets built once."* BRAIN MATTERS

Calling all parents, grandparents, caregivers, and friends! The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is super excited to present official screenings of the new documentary film "BRAIN MATTERS" to our region.

In the film, Director Carlota Nelson travels the world -- including Sarasota, FL -- to interview scientists, psychologists, and other early childhood development experts to reveal the essential factors which go into helping young children thrive.



**Literacy Under the Oaks**

Sarasota  
Saturday, September 7  
10:00am - 2:00pm

**Van Wezel's Friday Fest**

Sarasota  
Friday, September 20  
5:00pm - 9:00pm

**FREE Parenting Program  
Groups at Forty Carrots  
Family Center**

**MIND in the Making**



**FREE WORKSHOPS**

**Mind in the Making  
(MITM)**

**Currently Registering:**

**Team Proud**

North Port  
Begins Thursday, Sept 19  
8:30am - 10:30am

**Team Orion**

North Port

ogether, we will learn how to positively influence our children's brain architecture through family engagement and positive learning experiences, to prepare their minds for future opportunities.

Dates and times for this 72-minute documentary have been confirmed in DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties.

- **DeSoto County**  
Friday, November 15 from 4:00pm-6:30pm  
or  
Saturday, November 16 from 10:00am-12:30pm  
South Florida State College, DeSoto Campus.
- **Manatee County**  
Tuesday, November 12, 2019 from 4:00 - 6:30pm  
Manatee Community Foundation.
- **Sarasota County**  
Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 10:00am-12:30pm  
USFSM Selby Auditorium.
- **Tentative:**  
Charlotte County  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 from 4:00pm-6:30pm  
First United Methodist Church, Punta Gorda

Visit [SCGLR's Facebook page](#) for updates as more information about these meaningful events unfold.

## Writing Letters with your Kiddo

In the [last newsletter](#), we shared the importance of teaching letter sounds and the difference between learning the sounds of the alphabet compared to learning the letters.

Writing letters is equally important in your child's journey through literacy. During playtime, use sidewalk chalk to teach them how to write their name. If they

aren't quite ready for letters, practicing shapes is a great way to get a head start.

Watch the short video below for more useful tips and strategies.



Saturday, October 28  
Saturday, October 5  
8:00am - 4:00pm

### Team Renew

Bradenton  
Begins Thursday, Jan 9  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

### Team Quiz

Holmes Beach  
Begins Wednesday, Jan 15  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

## Why participants ♥ Mind in the Making

1. A learning adventure designed to help you and your children thrive.
2. Workshops available in English and Spanish.
3. Convenient dates, times, and locations/new classes.
4. An excellent way to show the ♥ to the little ones in your life.
5. Parents, grandparents, child-care professionals, early-learning educators, and caregivers are welcome
6. FREE workshops and FREE childcare
7. Meals Provided

We hope you will join us in this series of FREE workshops. Each Mind in the Making workshop provides participants the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and practices, discover how children (and adults) learn best, and discuss how to apply the knowledge while learning about all seven essential life skills:

- Focus and Self Control
- Perspective Taking
- Communicating
- Making Connections
- Critical Thinking
- Taking On Challenges
- Self-Directed Engaged Learning



Mind in the Making is made possible by the [Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) with generous support from [The Patterson Foundation](#).

[Practice Writing Letters of the Alphabet \(total time: 1 minute\)](#)

*continue scrolling*

## Put the FUN in Learning!

This past summer, thousands of children of all ages and reading levels participated in the [Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge](#).

Each week, at 97 different locations, volunteers, staff members, parents, and SCGLR engagement team members worked joyfully to help instill a passion for reading in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. 8,709 children participated--a 60% increase over 2018. Of 8,709 kids, 6,876 read six or more books--a 40% increase over 2018. In

total, the kids read 198,570 Books--a 57% increase compared to 2018!

The Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge was successful due to the efforts of many people at each location thinking of creative ways to engage children to read. A good example of that kind of creative thinking came from teachers at Glenallen Elementary School's Summer Learning Academy. They raised the bar on creative fun by building an indoor campsite, providing the children a reading adventure.

As parents, grandparents, and caregivers, you are your child's first and best teacher. Starting young, encourage them to develop a love for learning. For example, in your home, try building a fort with your little ones. Snuggle up, grab a flashlight and a [just right book](#), then read together.

It's special moments like this that build solid reading habits and the best kind of memories.



Glenallen Elementary's Summer Program

We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at [info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net](mailto:info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net).