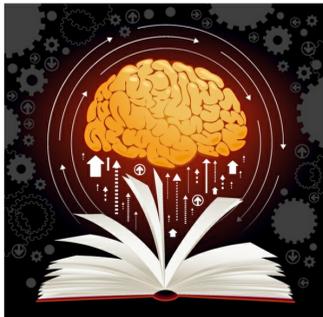


## SEPTEMBER 2016

### Updates from Beth - A Good Foundation

Looking out my window, I am able to see the construction of a multi-story building. At first, although construction had been taking place for months, there wasn't much to look at. Constructing the foundation of the building took time and meticulous care. Since the foundation has been finished, the building is seemingly growing by the hour, but none of the work has been more important than the building of a good strong foundation.



Building a foundation for learning is perhaps the most important job parents have and the process starts before birth. The human brain begins forming just three weeks after conception and continues to develop throughout life. In the first years of life the brain is growing at an impressive rate. Eighty percent of brain growth is accomplished before a child's third birthday. A baby's brain is open to learning and enriching influences and vulnerable to developmental problems if they are not nurtured.

Exercising a baby's brain in the early years builds a strong foundation for future learning. Talking, singing and reading to babies help them build connections in their brains that will effect them for the rest of their lives.

Here are some tips from [Too Small to Fail](#) on how to build a strong foundation in a baby's brain:

**Talking is teaching.** When you talk to your baby—even though they can't use words yet—they are really learning from you and you're helping them become both smarter and happier.

**During the first year of life, your baby's language will develop faster than any other time.** To make the most of this time, talk to your baby about anything and everything. When they coo, coo back. When they smile, smile back.

**Make routines out of singing during everyday activities** like bathing, eating and getting dressed.

**Read a book to your baby every day**—in whatever language you feel most comfortable—beginning at birth. And if you don't feel comfortable reading words, you can point out the pictures in the book and talk with your baby about them.

**You are your child's first teacher.** The more words your baby hears from you, the better prepared he/she will be to learn.

**Everywhere you go, talk or sing about what you see.** Point out the world to your child. A stop sign, a traffic light or a tree might seem boring to you, but it's a whole new world for your baby, so teach them about it!

**Babies who hear their families talk, read and sing to them every day become stronger readers** and bond more with their families than babies who don't have that experience.

**Hugging, laughing and sharing close moments helps your baby bond with you, and helps their brain develop.** The more words your baby hears from you and other caregivers—and the more positive experiences your child has with you—the better prepared they will be to learn.

~ [Beth Duda](#), The Patterson Foundation, Director, SCGLR

### Moving the Needle

#### Mind In The Making Facilitators Share

Mind in the Making workshops offered in both English and Spanish are happening throughout the Suncoast region and participants are loving every minute.

A few Facilitators have shared their personal stories and some key take-aways from the MITM workshops in recent blogs:

[Alicia Chalmers](#) shared about the special technique WOOP, acronym for Wish, Outcome, Obstacle and Plan which boosts the way people are learning how to set and achieve goals.

[Elizabeth Sierra](#) shared about the impact the workshop has on participants not only in their professional world working with children but also in their own families and community as a whole.

[Joan Tomeo](#) shared about the module that focuses on taking on challenges. It reminds us that we can't hide from life's everyday challenges, but we can help our children understand how to manage life's challenges starting at birth.

Stay tuned for more stories from Facilitators and participants in upcoming blogs. If you're interested in learning more about MITM, contact [info@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net](mailto:info@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net).



### Learning & Sharing



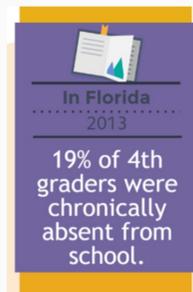
### Doing The Work



#### Attendance Awareness Poster Contest

September is attendance awareness month. Students all over Manatee and Sarasota counties are learning about outstanding attendance by creating posters with the message, Every Day Counts. To learn more, click [here](#) for a short 2-minute video.

Missing just two days a month can put a child in academic danger.



#### Did You Know?



#### Facilitator Shout Out!

Shout out to the Mind in the Making (MITM) Facilitators who are already making an impact throughout the region by either already hosting workshops or being in the planning phases to host an upcoming workshop.

Barbara Brownell  
Erica Brusoe  
Chris Culp  
Shelly Dorfman  
Kristen Fisher  
Angelina Guerrero  
Jamie Hannon  
Kelli Karen  
Mary Kelly  
Alicia Long  
Lisa Murray  
Pam Parmenter  
Jennifer Passmore  
\*Elizabeth Sierra  
Kristie Skoglund  
Megan Smith  
Joan Tomeo  
\*Lilliana Wright

*\*Hosting MITM workshops in Spanish*

**disponible  
en español**

#### SCGLR Blogs Available in Spanish!

Blogs for the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR) are now available in English and Spanish! Click [here](#) to read the latest blog.

**National Library Card Sign-Up Month**

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. It is a time when the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country join together to remind parents, caregivers and students that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Snoopy, the world-famous beagle from Peanuts, is returning to be this year's Honorary Chair of Library Card Sign-up Month.

For first time library card users, Sarasota County Libraries have a program that encourages exploration of each library on a passport scavenger hunt where they are able to earn prizes as they explore the library.

Visit the [Manatee County Library website](#) or the [Sarasota County Library website](#) to see what's happening locally this month or to sign up for your library card.



**Share the Newsletter**

Do you have friends, family, colleagues or neighbors who you think would be interested in receiving the monthly SCGLR newsletter? If so, please share the following:

To sign up to receive the newsletter, visit the [SCGLR website](#) and go to 'Newsletter' under the 'Take Action' tab, or click [here](#).

**Connect (English)**

[#GLReading](#)  
[@SuncoastCGLR](#)  
[Suncoast CGLR website](#)  
[Newsletter Sign Up](#)



**Connect (Spanish)**

[@LeerPara3ro](#)  
[Facebook](#)



**Founding Network Weavers**



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

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