

February 2017

February is National Children's  
Dental Health Month!



We know that poor oral health can have a detrimental effect on a child's quality of life, their performance at school, and their success later in life.

We are fortunate that the [Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County](#) (DOH-Sarasota) recently launched a school-based children's oral health education and sealant program in collaboration with the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, [The Rotary Foundation of Sarasota](#), [Community Foundation of Sarasota County](#), [Gulf Coast Community Foundation](#), and [The Patterson Foundation](#).

This sealant program is available to all the second-grade students attending Title 1 Schools in Sarasota County.

[Click this link to learn more about Sarasota's school-based dental sealant program.](#)

**Moving the Needle:  
Attendance Awareness Poster Contest**



The [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) and the [Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) aspire to achieve improvements in our community's reading proficiency focusing on five solution areas: School Readiness, **Absenteeism**, Summer Learning, Family Engagement, and Health.

In honor of Attendance Awareness Month in September, the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading hosted an [Attendance Awareness Poster Contest](#) to promote good attendance habits and help students and parents understand why going to school #EveryDayCounts.

**ATTENDANCE FAST FACTS**

- In the Manatee-Sarasota region, nearly 10,000 students are chronically absent
- In some communities, chronic absence affects 1 in 4 children
- Nationally, as many as 7.5 million students miss 10 percent or more of the school year – that's 135 million days

**FUN FACTS**

- In 2016, over 44,000 students created a poster with the message Every Day Counts
- In 2016, 42 public schools in Sarasota County and five preschool locations participated for a total of 47 schools
- In 2016, 44 public schools in Manatee County and three preschool locations participated for a total of 47 schools

Our children's success depends on a number of factors outside of actual classroom content, including access to the most basic school and living supplies. As Joshua Dickerson reveals in his poem, "Cause I Ain't Got a Pencil," often students at our Title 1 schools are facing additional obstacles in life that might affect their ability to comprehend their lessons while in school and practice skills learned at school. — [Cassandra Decker](#)



It turns out that childhood toxic stress can be the cause of serious health issues and mental health difficulties later in life. A recent study shows childhood toxic stress can shorten a person's life expectancy by as many as 20 years. Extreme poverty, neglect, abuse, violence, and severe maternal depression are some of the things that can create toxic stress in children. For those children, severe consequences can result in cognitive deficits, academic problems, emotional problems, and health problems.

The caring and supportive relationship with a parent or caregiver is the number one shield against toxic stress. Having a strong relationship with a parent or caregiver can help the child manage their feelings and calm their stress reactions, helping to build resilience in the child.

Please join the [Community Foundation of Sarasota County](#), [The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#), and [The Herald-Tribune Media Group](#) as we bring together national 2Gen thought leaders for a Hot Topics session: [Shelter from Stress: What Every Family Needs](#) on Friday, February 24th from 3:15–5:30pm at Booker VPA Center.

Featured speakers include [Dr. Dipesh Navsaria](#), [Dr. Darius Tandon](#), and [Dr. Sarah Watamura](#).



**Share the Newsletter**

Do you have friends, family, colleagues or neighbors who you think would be interested in signing up for the monthly SCGLR Newsletter? If so, please share by using the grey share icons at the very bottom or sign up for the newsletter [HERE](#).

Research shows that proficiency in reading by the end of third grade enables students to shift from learning to read to reading to learn and to master the more complex subject matter they encounter in the fourth grade curriculum.

We look forward to sharing engaging news and updates with you. [The Patterson Foundation](#) respects your privacy and will not share or sell your contact information.

To be added into the 0–5 Express newsletter distribution list, please click [HERE](#). To be added into the Spanish 0–5 Express newsletter distribution list, please click [HERE](#). Provide your first and last name in addition to your preferred email address. If there is information you are interested in learning more about, feel free to let the Campaign know.

**Connect** (English)

#GLReading  
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## Cause I Ain't Got a Pencil

by Joshua T. Dickerson

I woke myself up  
 Because we ain't got an alarm clock  
 Dug in the dirty clothes basket,  
 Cause ain't nobody washed my uniform  
 Brushed my hair and teeth in the dark,  
 Cause the lights ain't on  
 Even got my baby sister ready,  
 Cause my mama wasn't home.  
 Got us both to school on time,  
 To eat us a good breakfast.  
 Then when I got to class the teacher fussed  
 Cause I ain't got a pencil.



Connect (Spanish)

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### Founding Network Weavers



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

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