

3rd Grade Reading Success Matters



Suncoast Summer Book Challenge

The statistics are troubling: 67 percent of children nationwide and more than 80 percent of those from low-income families are not proficient readers by the end of third grade. Forty percent of all third graders in the Suncoast region are unable to read proficiently by the end

of third grade. The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading was launched to reverse this potentially catastrophic trend by supporting common-sense solutions at the federal, state, and local levels.

Solutions are focused in the following areas:

- School Readiness | Early Learning
- Attendance
- Summer Learning

More than half of the achievement gap between lower and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college. (Alexander et al, 2007)

Summer is a time of great inequity for young people. Over the summer many young people and their families lose access to critical supports that keep them safe, healthy, and engaged in learning.

Research shows that low-income children can lose two months or more of reading skills over the summer. Children who do that consistently can wind up two years behind their classmates by the end of sixth grade.

Summer learning can be bolstered by coming up with effective ways to get more kids engaged in independent reading and encouraging

communication about what they have read to ensure understanding.

Six books to summer success: Research shows that reading six books at the appropriate reading level during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing.

The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is working with summer camp providers, foundations, teaching artists, regional library systems, and various summer recreation locations to provide summer learning opportunities including the 2017 Suncoast Summer Book Challenge!

Benefits of summer reading programming for children:

- Children are motivated to read
- Children develop positive attitudes about reading, books, and the library
- Children maintain their reading skills during summer vacation
- Children have access to experiences that further their sense of discovery
- Children have access to experiences through which they can learn to work cooperatively

Want to participate?

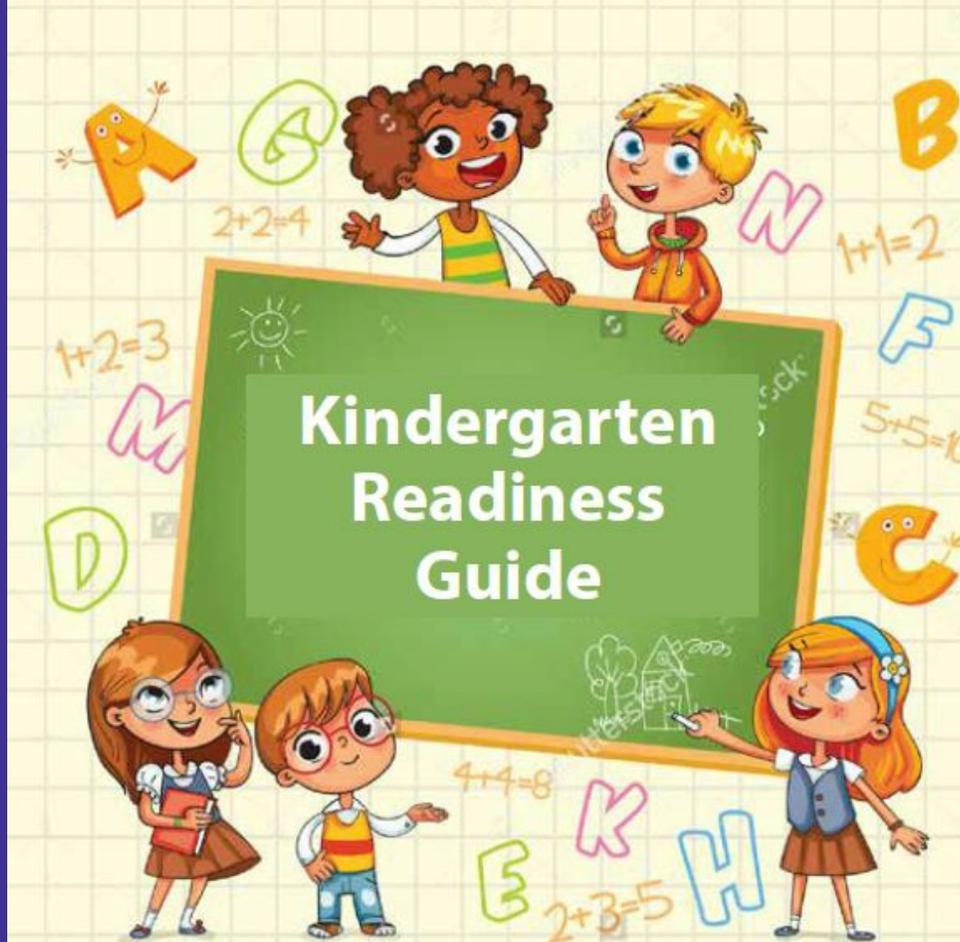
[Access the 2017 Suncoast Summer Reading Parent Guide](#)

[Access the 2017 Suncoast Summer Reading Log](#)

Practical Skills Every Child Needs As They Enter Kindergarten

Young minds have many questions about going into kindergarten that parents will want to answer. Discover together as questions like, "How will I know where to put my backpack?" or "Where do we eat lunch?" arise. Visiting the school and reading books about the first days of school will help.

The library is a community resource housing books like *Annabel Swift*, *Kindergartner* by Amy Schwartz, *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn, *Tomorrow is the First Day of School* by Maureen MacDowell, and *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come* by Nancy Carlson. These books are fun reads to help build excitement during the transition into school!



Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Play school with your child. Practice these skills and check them off as they are mastered. Then ... CELEBRATE!

I CAN:

- recognize and name basic shapes: square, circle, triangle and rectangle
- recognize and name numbers 1-10, even when they are out of order
- count to 20
- count ten objects, pointing to each one as I count
- say or sing the alphabet
- recognize the letters of the alphabet, both uppercase and lowercase (even out of order)
- identify colors in an eight-count crayon pack
- recognize my first name in print
- sort items by size, color or shape
- hold a book and turn pages
- tell if two words rhyme
- identify some letter sounds
- say my parents' full names, address and phone numbers (at least one)
- put on my coat or jacket and zip it up

I CAN:

- tie my shoes
- take turns and share
- sit quietly and listen
- follow simple directions
- use the bathroom by myself (including zipping and buttoning pants)
- put on my backpack
- hold a pencil or crayon
- cut with scissors
- put things away
- hang my backpack on a hook
- wash my hands with soap
- use a tissue to wipe my nose
- cough into my elbow
- stand in line
- drink from a drinking fountain
- raise my hand and wait to be called on
- open any food containers in my lunch

Join the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for Kindergarten Readiness Days at your local libraries! There will be fun activities to participate with your child to get them ready for Kindergarten!

- [Access the Kindergarten Readiness Guide filled with ideas and activities for parents and children](#)
- [Sarasota Kindergarten Readiness Play Days](#)
- [Manatee Kindergarten Readiness Play Days](#)

[**View Upcoming Events**](#)

Mind in the Making



[The Seven Essential Life Skills, With Ellen Galinsky | Big Think Mentor \(7:13\)](#)

Team Hawk Soars

By Jamie Hannon, Assistant Principal of Fruitville Elementary School

In May of 2016, the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading held a Mind in the Making (MITM) Facilitator Institute for 27 individuals from 13 different agencies in Manatee and Sarasota counties. Since then, these facilitators have been presenting Mind in the Making's Seven Essential Skills Training Modules to over 525 people throughout the Suncoast region. Due to demand, a second Mind in the Making Facilitator Institute was held in February of 2017, raising the number of local facilitators to 50.

As a first time facilitator for a Mind in the Making cohort, I did not know what to expect. We initially had difficulty finding participation, but once we switched the location to Fruitville Elementary, the course filled up quickly. We were so very fortunate to have a diverse group of educators, parents, and community members. The Mind in the Making Cohort is a facilitated learning opportunity that teaches adults how to help children develop the seven essential life skills: focus and self control, perspective taking, communication, making connections, critical thinking, taking on challenges, and self-directed engaged learning.

We discovered quickly that key to success with all of the modules of Mind in the Making is the discussion that occurs between the participants. As a facilitator, it is my job to listen to conversations and pose questions that are thought to provoke and continue to spark that discussion. As the weeks and modules progressed, participants became more comfortable with each other and began to understand each other's background. Each participant valued the information we

were sharing and saw how important it was for us to spread the word through our own avenues as educators, parents, and community members.

Along our journey, we became a community of learners. We all grew together, learned together, and will go forward to share the Mind in the Making message with others; two of our cohort members went on to become Mind in the Making facilitators.

If you are interested in hosting Mind in the Making workshops or you would like to participate in one of the courses currently being offered, please inquire at info@campaignforgradelevelreadingsuncoast.net.

[Read About Past Mind In The Making Workshops](#)





Suncoast GL Reading @SuncoastCGLR · May 15
#Volunteers helping to propel @reachoutandread forward in #ManateeCounty |
Reach Out and Read, A Powerful Messenger gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net/reach-out-and-... pic.twitter.com/kvFAs5Burk

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Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to propel [@reachoutandread](https://www.instagram.com/reachoutandread) forward in Manatee County last week. SCGLR appreciates your gift of time ♥

For more information on how you can become a volunteer, contact Donna Puhlovich | SCGLR Volunteer Coordinator at info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net.

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



[Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Lead](https://www.pattersonfoundation.org/suncoast-campaign-for-grade-level-reading-lead)



United Way
of Manatee County, Inc.



[Manatee Lead](#)

[Sarasota Lead](#)

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