Suncoast Honored With 2022 All-America City Award and GLR Pacesetter Award

The Suncoast was recognized as an All-America City Awards winner for its commitment to cross-sector collaboration; meaningful partnerships with public housing agencies and affordable-housing organizations; data-based solutions; and equity, including racial equity.

SCGLR also won a Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Pacesetter Award for addressing the Summer and COVID learning slides through community collaboration by empowering parents and fostering summer learning engagement through #THISBOOKISCOOL!

“We are happy to designate the Suncoast Region as an All-America City,” said Doug Linkhart, president of the National Civic League. “They showed, even in the face of a global pandemic, that they can bring people together to help kids and families thrive.”

“The Suncoast Region is meeting families where they are through a
24/7/365/multi-generational set of systems, supports, and services,” said Ralph Smith, managing director of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. “In doing so, the community is working to disrupt generational poverty for young learners and their families.”

“These awards are a testament to our community’s cross-sector collaboration and its innovative work to strengthen children and families throughout our four-county region,” said Beth Duda, director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for The Patterson Foundation.

“Engaging families, educators, businesses, nonprofits, and the government gives rise to assets and partnerships that continue to create long-term impact. We are honored to be recognized alongside the inspiring communities nationwide that share our commitment to creating these brighter outcomes.”

Learn more about the Suncoast region’s award-winning efforts and its GLR Pacesetter Award.
Parents and caregivers play an enormous role in school readiness. The first five years of brain development establish the foundation of all future learning. Children who enter school with early skills, such as a basic knowledge of math and reading and a well-developed vocabulary, are better positioned for school success.

As early as 18 months old, children from asset-limited families begin to fall behind in vocabulary development and other skills critical for school success. By age 4, they will likely have heard 30 million fewer words than their affluent peers. When children start school with this gap, they are less likely to do well academically, attain higher levels of education, and secure employment after school.

Physical health and wellness and the timely recognition of any developmental delays are also important factors in school readiness.

For extra support that promotes school readiness, please visit the resources tab on SCGLR's website, where you can find tools for families, partners, and educators.

Here's to another year full of opportunities to build relationships with families and close the 30-million word gap!

Access to Digital Healthcare is Essential
There is a misconception that telehealth and teletherapy services were born out of the pandemic with a need for doctor’s appointments to be remote as our country, our world, shut down. However, many healthcare institutions, including Cigna, Spectrum Health, and the American Telemedicine Association, have been identifying and addressing the need for these services way before COVID entered our lives.

Telehealth is the provision of healthcare remotely through telecommunications technology. Teletherapy is when people receive therapy for mental health issues digitally, usually by videoconferencing.

The Patterson Foundation's Digital Access for All (DA4A) initiative has identified the need for equitable access to these services, especially considering many people do not have the means to afford healthcare or a device and internet to access healthcare digitally.

The DA4A team has begun a large-scale project to research and address the issue of access disparities in the telehealth and teletherapy realms. This project aims to identify and connect trusted technology-based medical resources and education services to individuals and families at free or low-cost rates. Please consider advancing the initiative and this exploration by clicking the link to complete the survey below.

TAKE THE SURVEY

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

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