Gratitude and Reflection

The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, alongside co-authors Gregg Behr and Ryan Rydzewski, launched the When You Wonder, You’re Learning Book Circle Project, fully funded by The Patterson Foundation!

On September 13 and 14, Ryan connected with folks in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota and set the stage for our region’s book circle adventure. In this podcast, TPF Fellow Kellie Alexander interviews him, where they share insights on gratitude, connection, and reflection.

Spend 15 minutes (really feels like five minutes) learning more about Mister Rogers, the journey of this book, and the aspirations for the book circle project.

LISTEN HERE

As the book circles continue to ignite excitement around those "Aha" moments and the bonds we've formed, we cordially invite you to mark your calendars. On January 24, 2024, we have the honor of hosting authors Gregg Behr & Ryan Rydzewski as they join the Suncoast community. Together, we'll bring the book circle project to a close and prepare for the highly-anticipated Suncoast Remake Learning Days. From Saturday, April 20, 2024, through Saturday, May 4, 2024, Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties will dazzle for 15 consecutive days during this free regional learning festival.
The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and The Patterson Foundation hosted a Suncoast Remake Learning Days Pop-Up Party on Saturday, October 28, from 9am-12pm at Suncoast Technical College, Sarasota Campus. This family-friendly event was open to the general public and featured hands-on learning opportunities and performances put forth by many community partners, as well as breakout sessions for members of the community interested in hosting or participating in Suncoast Remake Learning Days events in the Spring of 2024.

"Is it possible to have that much fun with the whole family again? The answer is...yes. After a successful two years, Suncoast Remake Learning Days is growing into a 15-day festival of free, hands-on learning events for children and families this spring, April 20th-May 4th, 2024! — Laurie Miller

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

---

**When You Wonder, You’re Learning:**

**A Book Circle’s Impact on Team Unity**

by Sheila Halpin, Director of Early Learning Education, School District of Manatee County
In January 2023, the Manatee County School District's Early Learning Department undertook a significant transformation in its approach to family support. The diverse team, comprising professionals conducting developmental screenings, evaluations, consultation services, and Voluntary PreK (VPK) educators and early learning experts, faced the challenge of realigning their roles and interactions with families. This commitment led to the formation of a cohesive team, which, despite initial challenges, found unity through the *When You Wonder, You're Learning* Book Circle Project sponsored by The Patterson Foundation. Over four weeks, the team fostered deep connections, aligned work, and generated innovative ideas. The success of the book circle has inspired a continued commitment to such forums, promising ongoing growth and collaboration.

To continue reading about the early learning evolution in Manatee County, please visit [this link](#).

---

**Prioritizing Attendance in Early Education**

The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is proud to partner with Manatee County's Early Learning Taskforce, comprised of individuals representing the School District of Manatee County, the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, and Step Up Suncoast to present Breakfast with a Purpose for 200 pre-K and kindergarten providers in early December. Building upon the success of last year, which focused on easing the transition to kindergarten, this December's breakfast will center around taking action on attendance.

You can emphasize attendance by incorporating essential messaging provided by Attendance Works.

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