

AaBbCc™

BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY LITERACY

Who We Are: The nation's leading advocate for family literacy. We provide access to and choice of educational opportunities for young children and their parents.



Our History: Our founder and former First Lady Barbara Bush believes that family literacy is key to solving today's most critical challenges: social and economic mobility, quality of life, and global competitiveness. In 1989, Barbara Bush pioneered the national family literacy movement, launching the Foundation that focuses simultaneously on early childhood education for preschoolers and adult literacy for their parents.

The Stark Reality: Globally, the United States is falling dramatically behind in literacy skills. One in four adults cannot read above a 5th grade level, and research shows the single greatest indicator of a child's future success is the literacy level of his or her parents.

Our Proven Response: The Foundation's innovative approach provides access to high-quality, independently evaluated family literacy and mentoring programs.

The Barbara Bush Foundation empowers families and improves futures by encouraging the pursuit of learning at any age.

- Toddlers and preschoolers enrolled in our family literacy programs are prepared to start school ready for academic success.
- Elementary-age children boost their reading and comprehension skills when paired with high school students in our Teen Trendsetters™ Reading Mentors program. Our teens excel, as well as achieving high graduation rates.
- Parents receive scholarships to earn their high school diploma or to master English and have an opportunity to learn alongside their preschool-age children.

To date, children and parents in all 50 states have benefited from our literacy programs and scholarships.

Literacy Facts

- A child from a highly educated family will **experience 30 million more words** by the age of three than a child from a low-literate home.
- Almost half of all children born to a mother lacking a high school diploma are not ready to start kindergarten.
- Students who do not read proficiently by the third grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma.

Our Achievements

- 90% of preschool children who enter our programs at the lowest literacy levels end the school year on par with their peers and ready to enter kindergarten.
- Our parents, on average, improve their literacy skills by 1.6 grade levels in just 9 months. They boost their math skills by 1.7 grade levels.
- Elementary school readers, who begin our mentoring program 7 months behind in reading, end the school year achieving a reading level gain of 1.14 years. And, 82% of our teen mentors are college bound, possessing improved leadership and community service skills.

It's our 25th anniversary and we're celebrating from March 2014 through February 2015!

Throughout the year, we will commemorate this milestone and reflect our founder's passion for literacy in everything we do.

For additional information, please contact info@barbarabush.org or visit www.BarbaraBush.org