Filling the gaps to advance early literacy
Why Literacy?

- the 21st Century skill
- the “4 Cs” of 21st Century education

- critical thinking
- communication
- collaboration
- creativity

- the demand for high standards of reading/writing proficiencies required by today’s society
Reading — the Connection to Academic and Vocational Success

3rd Grade reading levels are strong predictors of:

- Ninth grade course performance
- High school graduation
- College attendance
Early Literacy Building Blocks

Early language abilities are directly related to later reading abilities

Language is the precursor to reading
Language Matters — Amount

Preschoolers whose parents read to them, tell stories, and sing songs tend to develop larger vocabularies, become better readers, and perform better in school.

Amount of language a child hears affects processing speed and later vocabulary.

Amount and diversity of verbal stimulation fosters early and rich language outcomes.
Early Literacy Gaps

• Disparities in language development emerge in infancy and widen in toddlerhood

• Low income children entering kindergarten are typically 12-14 months below national norms in language and pre-reading skills

• Nearly 40% of incoming kindergartners nationwide enter school without the basic language skills they need to learn to read
Arizona’s Children
Reading Achievement Scores

• 3 out of every 4 fourth graders in Arizona cannot read proficiently according to national standards* — only Nevada, Alaska, and Washington, D.C. have lower NAEP percentages.

• 85% of low-income children read below proficiency.

*National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
**MISSION:** Read On Arizona is a statewide public/private partnership of agencies, foundations and community stakeholders who are committed to a collaborative approach to improving language and literacy outcomes for Arizona’s children from birth to age eight.
A model early literacy continuum (Birth to age 8)

The right program at the right time for every child

Language-rich and engaging curricula coordinated for impact (quality/dosage)

Ongoing assessments and screenings as early as possible

Capacity building models (professional development)

Family supports focused on language and literacy

Outcome Goal: 3rd grade reading proficiency
SOLUTION: An Early Literacy Continuum

Building the continuum:

• **Alignment** of key stakeholders (cross sector engagement)
• **Framework** for collaboration (process/gap analysis/plan)
• **Momentum** to achieve results
Visionary Community Goals

• Increase the % of students reading at or above grade level by 3rd grade to 100%.

• Increase the % of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the language and literacy domain.

• Drive change through capacity building, group solutions, continuous instructional improvement, and integrated systems.

So that every child:
enters kindergarten ready for school success and stays on track for college and career success.
Collaborative Partners

- Achievement Learning
- Advocacy and Communication, Inc.
- America Reads
- Arizona Academy of American Pediatrics
- Arizona Association Education of Young Children
- Arizona Board of Education
- Arizona Business & Education Coalition
- Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence
- Arizona Charter Schools Association
- Arizona Community Foundation
- Arizona Department of Education
- Arizona K-12 Center
- Arizona Literacy and Learning Center
- Arizona Ready Education Council
- Arizona State Library
- ASU, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
- Association for Supportive Childcare
- ATI Online
- AZ K-12 Center
- Bookpals
- Boys and Girls Club
- BUILD Arizona
- Catholic Charities
- Central Arizona College
- Chicanos Por La Causa
- Children’s Action Alliance
- Childsplay
- The Children’s Museum of Phoenix
- City of Buckeye
- City of Chandler
- City of Flagstaff
- City of Goodyear
- City of Mesa, Mayor’s Office
- City of Phoenix, Mayor’s Office
- City of Scottsdale
- City of Tempe
- City of Tucson, Mayor’s Office
- Cochise County Office of Education
- Educare Arizona
- Eight, Arizona PBS
- Expect More Arizona
- Experience Corp., AARP
- Experience Matters
- First Book
- First Things First Regional Councils
- Flinn Foundation
- Governor’s Office of Education Innovation
- Grand Canyon University
- Greater Phoenix Economic Council
- Greater Phoenix Leadership
- Greater Phoenix Management Educational Council
- Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Helios Education Foundation
- International Dyslexia Association-AZ
- Jumpstart
- KPMG
- Lakeshore Learning
- Literacy Connects
- Make Way For Books
- Maricopa County Head Start
- Maricopa County Library
- Mesa Community College
- National Center for Family Literacy
- Northern Arizona University, College of Education
- Parent Teacher Association of Arizona (AZ PTA)
- Paradise Valley Community College
- Parents Education Network- Phoenix
- Pascuay Aqui Community Library
- Phoenix Public Library
- Pima Community College
- Raising A Reader
- Raising Special Kids
- Reach Out and Read Arizona
- Reading Is Fundamental
- Rodel Foundation
- Sanford Inspire Program
- Santa Cruz County Office of Education
- Southwest Human Development
- Southwest Institute for Families and Children
- Stand For Children
- Target
- Town of Globe
- Town of Miami
- Town of Payson, Star Valley, Pine, Strawberry, Tonto Basin, and Young
- Town of Sahuarita
- Toyota Family Literacy Program
- United Way of Northern Arizona
- United Way of Tucson/Southern Arizona
- United Way of Yuma County
- University of Arizona, College of Education
- Valley of the Sun United Way
- Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust
- And more….

And more….
Challenges and solutions

• Lack of information on critical factors prevents solutions
• Data integration and system linkages
• Lack of communication and coordination between efforts
• Read On Communities Network - a collaborative effort in each community to fill the literacy gaps
• Insufficient access to programs that work
• Continuum of effective practices
• Too little awareness and attention given to early literacy
• Community awareness and engagement
Statewide 10 Year Literacy Action Plan

- Ongoing introduction of evidence based practices
- Building a community of practice between regions
- National recognition of statewide model
- Assistance - Move On When Reading literacy plans
- Early Literacy Guide for Families
- Launched ReadOnArizona.org
- Summer reading collaborative
- Data integration pilot
Connect with Your Child through READING!

50 FUN IDEAS

1. Try a New Genre
   Encourage children to develop an interest in a variety of genres such as adventure, mystery, fantasy, and poetry.

2. Word Games for Everyone
   Lead by example — exercise your mind by doing crossword puzzles, word jumbles and word searches. Play board games as a family to develop vocabulary skills.

3. Current Events
   Encourage family members to develop a habit of reading and discussing items from the daily newspaper to keep up-to-date on what is happening around the world.

4. Transitions Tunes
   Sing with young children every day to help them make transitions. Make up songs about daily activities such as waking up, taking a walk, or going to the store.

5. Young Illustrators
   Ask your children to illustrate stories and engage them in dialogue about their artwork. Keep an album of their artwork so the family can continue to talk about it and so children can see their progress.

6. Bring Home a Book
   Tie reading into an outing. If you're going to a museum, bring home a book about a favorite exhibit, so children see reading as an experience.

7. Author Study
   Help your child learn more about a favorite author. Look up titles of other books by that author, and help your child send a letter or e-mail to the author.

8. Reading Journal
   Help your child keep a journal of what books he or she reads. Include the book title, author, what your child liked or didn't, and a simple rating system (make it fun with stars or stickers).

9. Stop!
   Point out signs during the day and read them together. Talk about what the symbols on the sign mean.

10. Scavenger Hunt
    Hide a special book for your child. Write out simple clues and have a scavenger hunt to find the book.

11. Living Room Theatre
    Read a story and then act it out using puppets, dolls or stuffed animals.

12. Let the Pictures Tell the Story
    With your child, look at the pictures in a book and guess what happens. Then, read it together to see if you were right!

13. Play with Your Food
    N is for Noodle! Help your child spell their name or form the letters of the alphabet using cooked spaghetti noodles.

14. Simon Says...
    By playing this listening game, your child will get practice listening carefully and following directions — two things that are important on school days.

15. Spell My Name
    Help your child cut out letters from a newspaper or magazine. Try to find the letters in your child's name and your name. Together, string together the letters to spell the names.

16. Make Your Own Story
    Look at the pictures in a book or magazine and make up a story using them.

17. At Home with the Gnome
    Make up stories about things you see in your home and as you go about your daily routine. "Step over the dog like he's a log." "Would you like to share my stair?"

18. Talk About Reading
    Read your child books that were your favorites when you were a child. Talk about why you loved them.

19. The Best Part of Your Day
    Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about story time as the favorite part of your day.

20. Read Together
    Keep reading to your child even after she learns to read. A child can listen and understand more difficult stories than she can read on her own.

21. Improving Reading Comprehension
    Show your child how events in the book are similar to events in your child's life.

22. Reading Together
    Invite your child to join in whenever there is a repeated phrase in the text.

23. Storytelling
    Encourage them to tell you stories, or to have them draw pictures or make up stories of their own.
Statewide Collaborative Resources

Early Literacy Guide for Families (available in English and Spanish):

- Early Literacy (ages 0-2)
- Emerging Literacy (ages 3-4)
- Young Readers (ages 5-8)
- Move On When Reading Policy
myON: A Digital Library
For Every Child In Arizona

It takes only a few simple steps to access myON books:

Go online to:  www.myon.com

Click the Log In Now button and enter the following information:

School Name: Read On Arizona, Digital Library
(Begin entering the first few letters and then select from the drop-down menu)
User name: read
Password: read

Click on Sign In, select a book and start reading!
Continuum of Effective Literacy Practices Task Force

Key areas from birth through age eight:

• Approaches to learning and literacy instructional practices
  (school readiness, chronic absenteeism, out of school time learning, etc.)

• Professional development focused on literacy

• Family engagement centered around literacy

• Screening/assessment involving literacy

• Digital literacy

• Transitions
Engaging parents, businesses and the community by addressing these four key areas:

- School readiness
- Summer learning loss
- Afterschool literacy enrichment
- Volunteerism

Read On Phoenix has pursued these key areas by:

- Organizing and holding an Early Childhood Literacy Summit at Arizona PBS Studios. with education, business, and community leaders focusing on third grade reading proficiency. November 8, 2013 named Read On Phoenix Day by Mayor Stanton.
- Partnering with Diamondbacks on early literacy in afterschool setting.
- Exploring a possible partnership between Read On Phoenix, AARP Experience Corps. and Experience Matters around volunteer tutoring opportunities.
- Phoenix library hosting Every Child Ready to Read workshops for families.
- Exploring grant opportunities.

Lead Contact:
Tim Valencia
602-256-3426
Tim.Valencia@phoenix.gov
PRIORITIES:
Work together to address the challenges for our most at-risk children in developing solutions in critical areas such as:

- School readiness and reading at grade level
- Family engagement
- Professional development

PARTNERS:
Cochise County School Superintendent
First Things First Regional Partnership Council
Head Start (Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Sierra Vista, Willcox)
Cochise County Public Library
United Way of Sierra Vista and Cochise County
And more...

HIGHLIGHTS:
- Hosting first partner meeting on January 23, 2014 with panel discussion entitled *Cochise County Early Literacy Successes and Challenges*
- Cochise County Resource Guide and next steps in community literacy scan

Lead Contacts:
Melissa Avant
First Things First
Regional Director
Cochise Regional Partnership Council
Phone: 520-378-3280
E-mail: mavant@azftf.gov

Trudy Berry
Cochise County School Superintendent
E-mail: tberry@cochise.az.gov
HIGHLIGHTS:

- Home-based coaching to families
- KinderCamp
- Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
- A “community of practice” focused on early literacy development

Lead Contact:
Peter Van Wyck
Literacy Project Coordinator
United Way of Northern Arizona
Email: PVanWyck@nazunitedway.org
Phone: (928) 773-9813

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS:

Alliance for Children’s Early Success
Association for Supportive Childcare
Boys and Girls Club
City of Flagstaff
Coconino Coalition of Children and Youth
Coconino Community Education Report Advisory Committee
Coconino County Superintendent of Schools
Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library
Flagstaff Family Food Center
Flagstaff Unified School District
Native Americans for Community Action
North County Healthcare
Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Head Start
Northern Arizona University
Reach Out and Read
Southside Neighborhood Associations
Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

NAZUnitedWay.org
PRIORITIES:

- The communities of Globe and Miami have developed a cooperative partnership focused on early literacy, particularly among their most at-risk children.

PARTNERS:

- First Things First
- Town of Miami
- City of Globe
- Globe and Miami Rotary
- CASA of Gila County
- Globe Unified School District
- Miami Unified School District
- Gila County School Superintendent
- Globe Head Start
- Miami Head Start
- Globe/Miami Chamber of Commerce
- Copper Rim School
- Cenpatico
- Gila County Health Department
- Freeport McMoRan
- Capstone
- Arizona Silver Belt
- Copper Country News
- Globe/Miami Times
- Cobre Valley Hospital
- Canyonlands Health Care
- Destiny Schools
- Gila County Library District
- Globe Library
- Miami Memorial Library
- Dolly Parton Literacy Program
- Horizon Domestic Violence Safe Home
- United Fund
- Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
- Healthy Steps for Young Children
- Globe/Miami Ministerial Association
- St. Pauls United Methodist Church
- Farmers Fogle Agency
- Southern Gila County Network Team
- Community Action Program
- State Farm Insurance
- Early Childhood Network
- Gila Reading Council
- Claypool United Methodist Church
- Gila Community Food Bank
- Copper Rim Preschool
- Miami Vandals Preschool
- Bejarano Elementary School
- Rhonda’s Child Care
- Sylvia’s Preschool
- Friends of Globe Library
- southeastern Arizona Behavioral

UPCOMING:

Collaborative planning sessions involving community partners
Collaborative Partners:
- City of Mesa
- Mesa Public Schools
- Mesa Public Library
- Mesa United Way
- Maricopa County Head Start
- Mesa Community College

Highlights:
- Jumpstart early literacy preschool pilot program
- Volunteer recruitment for MPS afterschool reading program

Lead Contact:
Patricia Mullen
Mesa United Way
E-mail: patricia.mullen@mesaunitedway.org
Phone: 480-834-2124
COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS:
City of Nogales
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
First Things First Regional Partnership Council
Nogales Family Resource Center
Rio Rico Resource Center
Patagonia Resource Center
Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College
University of Arizona- Santa Cruz County
Ed Options Learning Center
St. Andrew’s Preschool
Dino Bones Preschool
Smart Kids Preschool
Kids House Montessori
Rainforest Montessori
Rio Rico Head Start
Lourdes Catholic School
San Cayetano Elementary
Mountain View Elementary
Pena Blanca Elementary
Santa Cruz Elementary #28
Sonoita Elementary #25
Patagonia Elementary #6
A.J. Mitchell Elementary
Bracker Elementary
Challenger Elementary
Fco. Vasquez de Coronado
Lincoln Elementary
Mary L. Welty Elementary
Nogales Rotary

HIGHLIGHTS:
• Action planning
• Exploring family engagement literacy strategies
• **Collaboration**
  
  • Local partners such as FTF, local school districts, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, ADE, Library, Western Area Council of Governments, and many others…

• **Programs**
  
  • Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
  • KinderCamp
  • Summer Reading Program
  • Raising A Reader (coming soon)
  • Abriendo Puertas (coming soon)

Contact:
Madeleine Coil
United Way of Yuma County
Madeleine.Coil@local.unitedway.org
(928) 783-0515
Summary

Framework

Alignment

Continuum

= 3rd grade reading proficiency

Contact: Terri Clark, State Literacy Director
Email: tclark@readonarizona.org