



Literacy Empowers All Families

Vision: To ensure that all children and families have opportunities to develop literacy skills and a love of reading.

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County has made a long term commitment to fund projects which enable partners to provide new services to children and families. Our goal is to help all families live enriched lives through literacy.



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of Sarasota County

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Imagination Library

Serving Children Ages 0 to 5

The Sarasota County Library System has introduced the Dollywood Foundation project, Imagination Library, to Sarasota County. Many young children are receiving home libraries of sixty books along with an invitation to discover the exciting world of reading and learning.

Social Marketing Campaign

Serving Parents and Their Children Ages 0 to 5

The Early Learning Coalition is leading a campaign to ensure that parents understand the crucial role they play in fostering children's language and literacy development. Research shows a huge disparity in the amount and variety of language children hear from their parents and a clear correlation between language heard and school performance – a 30 million word gap by age 3. The campaign message is simple: parents can have a big impact when they listen more, talk more and read more with their children.



Ready Set Kindergarten

Serving Children Ages 4 to 5

Through Children First, children entering kindergarten are receiving intensive pre-reading skills instruction in the summer. Parents are required to attend literacy workshops and families receive activities through the mail to support their children's learning.

The LEAF program is funded by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Participating community partners include the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County, Sarasota County Library System, Children First and the Sarasota County School Board.

Partners in Print

Serving Children Ages 5 to 6

The Sarasota County School Board is holding workshops for kindergarten and first grade parents to empower parents to help their children become confident and successful readers. Parents receive activities and books to take home for their children.

Starbooks Reading

Serving Children Ages 11 to 12

The Sarasota County School Board is bringing a children's author to visit every middle school to talk to sixth and seventh graders. Each student receives a paperback copy of the author's book. Teachers and administrators receive specialized training all year long in middle school literacy strategies.

Keys and Steps to Success

Serving Parents with Children Ages 0 to 5

Through Children First, two mentoring programs have been initiated to help develop literacy skills in parents and teachers. Parent mentors are trained to work with other parents and to lead parent workshops. Teacher mentors are selected and trained to expand pre-k teachers' knowledge of developing literacy, in young children. Pre-k facilities throughout Sarasota County are participating.