

Early Literacy Project

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The Early Literacy Project aims to promote reading at home among children 0-3 years of age. About 85% of brain development happens in the first five years of life. Reading in these critical years significantly influences a child's lifelong capacity to learn. Reading aloud introduces new vocabulary, grammar, and concepts that are not used during regular talking. More than one in three children arrive at kindergarten without the skills necessary for lifetime learning. Some children will hear 30 million MORE words than their peers before age 4. Reading just 15 minutes per day can close that gap so that all children can enter school hearing 45 million words. The goal of the Early Literacy Project is to bridge that word gap.

- Currently 18 children are in the program.
- A survey was recently sent out to all Necedah parents in hopes of reaching other families for the program
- Families receive a home visit once per month. The visit includes:
 - A read-aloud book with manipulatives so the child can actively participate in comprehension of the book.
 - Several other books are read to the child.
 - A new, indestructible board book is given and read to the child.
 - Parents are encouraged to read aloud 15 minutes a day. Parents receive a \$5.00 gift card to Kwik Trip if they have shown that they have read 21 days. Most parents have achieved this goal.
- Families have received information about getting a Necedah Public Library card.