

BASIC LITERACY

Developing foundational competency including reading, writing, math, job application assistance, and overall life-skill development. Also includes STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) knowledge building on basic skills and concepts.



Each year, low literacy costs the U.S. \$225 billion or more in non-productivity in the workforce, with crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

- ✓ 86% of 3-5 year-olds (not yet in Kindergarten) are told a story by a family member weekly.
- ✓ 55% are read to daily.
- ✓ 95% are taught letters, words, or numbers.

A child who can read by the third grade is unlikely to ever be involved with the criminal justice system.

- ✓ 85% of all youth in the Juvenile Court System are functionally illiterate.
- ✓ More than 70% of inmates in America's prisons cannot read above a fourth-grade level.

Higher levels of inequality in literacy and numeracy skills are associated with greater inequality in the distribution of income.



Illiteracy has become such a serious problem in our country that 44 million adults are now unable to read a simple story to their children.

- ✓ In all countries, individuals who score at lower levels of proficiency in literacy are more likely than those with higher proficiency to report poor health, believe that they have little to no impact on the political process, and not participate in associative or volunteer activities.



In preschool, children listening to stories, greater home reading exposure is positively associated with activation of brain areas supporting mental imagery and narrative comprehension, controlling for household income.

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About PA Forward

Pennsylvania's libraries serve as models of cost-effective service. Libraries stretch the public's resources through book sharing, computers, online resources, facilities and expertise.

PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Library Association, aims to make sure libraries have what they need to help people reach their greatest potential and meet the demands of a constantly changing world. The program establishes new public-private partnerships and builds on the belief that libraries are uniquely positioned to help Pennsylvanians improve their command of five types of literacy essential to greater success in all vital roles of life, from citizens, students, and parents to employers, employees, and consumers.

PA Forward promotes and benefits all libraries by demonstrating that literacy is power and how libraries provide the fuel to power Pennsylvania.

For more information about the Pennsylvania Library Association and PA Forward, visit www.palibraries.org or call 717-766-7663. For the latest information, like the Association's Facebook pages as Facebook/PALibraries and Facebook/PA Forward. You can also follow on Twitter at @PALibraryAssoc and @PAForward5.

Library Contact Information

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