

Literacy Facts

(Note: these statements are all true)

More than 20 percent of adults in the United States read at or below a fifth-grade level. *National Institute for Literacy*

As the education level of adults improves, so does their children's success in school. *National Institute for Literacy*

43 percent of people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty. *National Institute for Literacy*

Federal funding enables millions of families to participate in basic education programs that help people help themselves. *National Institute for Literacy*

Poor reading and writing skills can have a devastating lifelong impact - 75% of school dropouts report reading problems, and at least half of adolescents and young adults with criminal records have reading difficulties. *National Institute for Literacy*

In 1998, students who reported watching three or fewer hours of television each day had higher average reading scores than students who reported watching more television. *U.S. Department of Education*

Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school. *U.S. Department of Education*

Greater literacy is linked to:

- Increased voter participation
- Higher rates of citizenship
- Enhanced volunteerism and civic engagement
- Success for the next generation
- Lower incarceration rates
- Better health and healthcare
- Greater personal income

Report of the National Commission on Adult Literacy, June 2008

The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school. *National Commission on Reading, 1985*



61 percent of low-income families have no books at all in their homes for their children. *Reading Literacy in the United States, 1996*

The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to print. *Newman, Sanford, et al. "American's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy"; Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2000*

Communities ranking high in achievement tests have several factors in common: an abundance of books in public libraries, easy access to books in the community at large, and a large number of textbooks per student. *Newman, Sanford, et al. "American's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy"; Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2000*

"March is Reading Month" is a state-wide initiative to raise awareness about the importance of reading and literacy challenges. *Michigan.gov*

We should all do our part to ensure that all people have access to books, thereby helping to increase literacy rates in the world, nation, our state and in our local communities.

