

Early Childhood "Book a Week" Kickoff

Dayton Independent Schools and Scholastic Books are partnering to kick off a program to improve early childhood literacy and emotional readiness.

Dayton, KY (Lincoln Elementary) Thursday, November 19 at 8:45 AM and 1:00 PM (Clifford the Big Red Dog will also be in attendance!)

Improving early childhood literacy and emotional readiness are key to ensuring all students are kindergarten ready. The "Book a Week" program will enhance the parenting partnership between the home and school by providing a preschool theme book each week for each preschool and Head Start student.

Dayton Independent Schools is aggressively addressing the issue of kindergarten readiness. Since 90% of a child's brain develops before the age of five, it is imperative that each child has a vocabulary rich and engaging early childhood literature experience. This program will also help strengthen the parenting partnership that is essential in a child's development. Dayton Independent Schools strongly believes that each child deserves to be in a relationship with a responsive, consistent, and trusted adult.

"The importance of early childhood language development goes without saying. Sometimes the language and literacy experiences for children can create a 30 million word gap." – Brittney Howell, Director of Early Childhood Education

The "Book a Week" program is a collaborative effort between Dayton Independent Schools and Scholastic Books to bring high quality and authentic literature into the homes of each child in Dayton, KY. Each student enrolled in our early childhood program will receive a Scholastic early childhood book each week over the course of the school year, totaling **30 books a year!** Each week every child will receive the same book as the book will be used for classroom instructional activities that then tie into home reading activities. The next week will bring a new book to help build their own personal library, build vocabulary, and strengthen the parent/child relationship. The kick-off event will be a parenting partnership event in which the program will be explained and students will receive their first book, "*Read to your Bunny*."

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