



Our Moonshot Moment Goal: 90% Literacy by Third Grade

The Question: What does it take to get 90% of kids ready for K and reading by third grade in such a way that we create literate, compassionate, citizens who change our world?

The Problem:

- In IRC, only 56% of children are proficient readers by the end of third grade. Third grade is the pivot point, because you are “learning to read, so you can then read to learn.”
- Studies show that only 1 in 6 struggling readers will succeed, resulting in high school drop outs, and more of society's ills including a cycle of poverty resulting from the inability to obtain a 21st Century job.
- Estimates show that almost 1/3 of children who come to kindergarten are not ready. If you start behind, you will stay behind (unless we provide high-quality intervention after-school and in summer to catch up.)
- Children lose up to two months of learning over the summer. This “summer slide” can add up to two years learning loss by fifth grade.
- Reading proficiently by the end of third grade is a key predictor of high school graduation, yet too many students - especially children in high-poverty schools and from low-income families - are failing to attain this critical milestone.
- More than three out of four of those on welfare, 85% of unwed mothers and 68% of those arrested are illiterate. Almost three in five of America’s prison inmates are illiterate.

Why do we care?

Our children are the future of our County and Country. The US is lagging behind in education and economic prosperity, and it stems back to 3rd grade reading.

What will it take to fix this?

Kindergarten readiness. We need to have high-quality childcare and preschool so kids are **ready** when they come to kindergarten.

Afterschool and summer programming with literacy-based instruction. When you start behind, you stay behind, and this “extra time” is the only way to get caught up.

Teacher professional development is required to create the 90 % classroom by giving teachers the new, research-based tools and techniques to teach in today’s classrooms so that at least 90% of our students succeed.

Community Engagement so that every parent, every business owner and every citizen understands that they have a role to play in making 90% a reality.



What have we done so far?

The Moonshot Moment movement, originally started by *The Learning Alliance* and the School District of Indian River County over 6 years ago, has grown to include over sixty community nonprofits and businesses working together to solve this issue, and we have gained national attention. The 2012 Moonshot Moment goal was a call-to-action that has developed into a Moonshot Community whose promise to our children is timeless!

www.moonshotmoment.org

Contact: Marie O'Brien, mobrien@thelearningalliance.org, 877-548-READ (7323)

88%

of students who
fail to graduate
high school
were struggling
readers in 3rd grade.
(source: Anne E. Casey Foundation)

www.moonshotmoment.org

Contact: Marie O'Brien, mobrien@thelearningalliance.org, 877-548-READ (7323)