



Moonshot Community Action Network Summit – “Did You Know” Facts

## Did You Know????

“Talent is Florida’s most important tool in an economic developer’s toolkit.”

- Mark Wilson, President and CEO of Florida Chamber of Commerce

## Early Learning and Social/Emotional and Mental Health – Did You Know?

- That the rapid growth in brain architecture before age 5 is literally unlike any other time in our lives? Those new synapses can be strengthened with high-quality learning experiences, or they can wither and fade from adverse experiences such as food insecurity, lack of positive reinforcement and toxic stress.
- That in America today, 40% of all kids live in low-income households and that nearly 19% of all children have experienced food insecurity, which means that there wasn’t enough food for every person in their home.
- That children need to be taught and to have opportunities to practice social-emotional skills, in much the same way the learn how to read and solve math problems.
- That development of decision-making skills, regulating emotions and problem-solving skills are intensively predictive of how kids will fare – not just in a given year, but over long periods of time.

## Birth to Age 5 = Kindergarten Readiness – Did You Know?

- That a baby is born with 100 **billion** neurons – as many stars as in the Milky Way – and that during the child’s first 1000 days that these neurons are making 1000 connections per second. The brain never stops developing but the early years set the critical foundation for all future learning.



- That babies recognize their mother’s voice at birth, and in fact, the amount of talk mothers direct to their child is strongly associated with the child’s vocabulary development.
- That a staggering 30 million more words are heard by a 3-year old from a professional family than are heard by a 3-year old from a family in poverty, which leads to developmental delays that then predicts a higher climb to literacy.
- That almost 2/3 of American mothers with children, under age 5, are now in the workforce and that 12 million young children are in childcare. Childcare has come to play an unprecedented critical role in our country’s economic growth and productivity. Today’s workers – the parents – need high quality child care. Tomorrow’s workers are in childcare.
- There is a wide body of research that demonstrates that early childhood interventions, particularly in the first years of life, do work. With high-quality early childhood experiences, people are more likely to have a higher income as adults, more likely to own a home, more likely to graduate from high school on time and less likely to need special education or public assistance
- That in Florida, childcare is more expensive than in-state college tuition.
- For children from low-income families, preschool attendance is one of the strongest factors in school readiness; attending a high-quality early childhood program also predicts higher levels of achievement at age 11
- That in middle–income neighborhoods the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1; in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is 1 book to 300 children.
- That in many states, like Florida, today’s kindergarten is yesterday’s first grade? With more academics being presented in kindergarten, children must learn the pre-academic foundations for formal reading **before** they enter kindergarten.
- That of the 1200 kindergarteners entering our school district last year,- only 50% percent, as determined by a State assessment, were deemed Kindergarten ready. The result is that a large number of children entering school are already significantly behind in language and reading readiness skills.



## **In School - Early Grades K – 3 – Did You Know?**

- We are not born with a brain that reads – we BUILD a brain that reads. Everything that goes into building that reading circuit matters.
- That a wealth of new research reaffirms the hypothesis that 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency is crucial for continued academic success and to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.
- That 42% of Florida’s third graders and 44% of Indian River County 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are not proficient readers.
- That research on children from low-income families also offered new evidence that having access to books can ameliorate the summer learning slide and significantly improve scores on state reading assessments;
- The oral language skills of our children when they arrive in kindergarten determines 50% of their success.

## **Extended Learning in School, Afterschool, and Summer – Did You Know?**

- Providing extended learning time afterschool, during school and in the summer is critical to bridge the gap, so that struggling readers can catch up to their peers.
- Free and reduced-lunch is 65% in Indian River County.
- Kids can lose two months of learning over the summer, so even if they arrive READY they will need 1.25 years of growth; If they arrive one year behind then they need 1.5 years of growth. If they arrive two years behind, they need 1.75 years growth to get caught up.
- We are not structured or funded by our legislators and the citizens of this great country to achieve these types of growth.



## **Teacher Training – Did You Know?**

- Teacher training programs are not preparing our teachers to deal with the literacy and the social-emotional challenges of children entering our doors.
- Only 4 out of 1000 colleges are hitting four stars for quality programs.

## **It Takes an Entire Community and Schools Can't Do It Alone – Did You Know?**

- Only 1 in six children who are not reading proficiently by third grade will succeed after third grade.
- 35% nationally and 56% of third graders locally are proficient.
- Today, to make a decent living, 9 out of 10 jobs require higher levels of literacy and numeracy.
- About 70% of male and female inmates score at the lowest proficiency level for reading.
- Reading skills are an indicator of criminal tendencies. Studies suggest that two-thirds of students who struggle with reading by fourth grade will run into trouble with the law at some point.
- Approximately 85% of youth who come into contact with the juvenile court are considered to be functionally illiterate, meaning they read at a basic or below basic level.
- Inmates who take advantage of education programs in prison may be less likely to commit a subsequent crime once they're released. In one study, the recidivism rate for offenders who participated in literacy programs was 27%, but it jumped to 60% among those who received no additional education while incarcerated.
- Research has also linked illiteracy to poverty as an adult. As many as 75% of welfare recipients struggle to read even the simplest texts.
- Illiteracy impacts the economy. In terms of lost productivity, it's estimated that the portion of the population that can't read costs the nation a staggering \$225 billion each year.



- Approximately 32 million adults in America are considered to be illiterate; about 14% of the entire adult population cannot read.
- Reading material becomes more complex for students around the fifth grade, and some 30 million adults aren't able to comprehend texts that are appropriate for 10-year-olds.
- Making it to graduation day is a major milestone for teens, but many of them struggle to decipher the words on their diploma. Just under 20% of high school grads haven't developed basic reading proficiency by the time they don their cap and gown.

## Impact to our Community – Did You Know?

- In 2014, PBS Newshour filmed a show about The Learning Alliance and the Moonshot Moment, garnering international attention for our Moonshot work.
- Since 2012, our Moonshot work is recognized nationally, receiving five national Pacesetter awards from the Campaign for Grade Level Reading.
- Dozens of Moonshot-specific initiatives have been developed through the Moonshot Community Action Network.
- The Moonshot Community Action Network represents over 125 organizations who have been supporting the Moonshot Moment 90% goal! We have learned that schools can't do it alone, and the entire community must get involved to take a stand for children and early education.
- We are at a Tipping Point! To reach the Moonshot Moment 90% goal, we need the commitment of each member of our community. Please – join the journey!