

# Read!

## Reading Success by 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



### CHERISH EVERY CHILD

**Cherish Every Child** was established in 1999 by the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation to improve the lives of young children – birth through the age of eight – in the city of Springfield, and thus their prospects for future success.

**Cherish Every Child** has been engaged in the campaign to establish a system of universal high-quality Pre-K in Massachusetts; is working on elevating the educational level of the early education workforce; has launched a Welcome Baby Basket program of home visits with local early childhood partners; supported the establishment of the BEST oral health program for children; and worked with others in the launching of the *Building a Better Workforce* coalition, based on research underscoring the return on investments in early education.

#### Data point:

**In 2008 only 33% of Springfield's third graders scored at or above grade level on the MCAS English Language Arts test.**

### Cherish Every Child Helps Launch



In addition to, and in concert with, its continuing focus on early education, **Cherish Every Child** and its many collaborators are now undertaking a public engagement campaign to increase reading proficiency in Springfield for its young children.

This community-wide campaign will include and engage local parents, the public school system, early education centers, teachers, health and family service organizations, local businesses, media outlets and libraries.



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## Your Day's Most Important 20 Minutes – Reading to Your Child

**The best intervention in expanding reading comprehension in children begins before kindergarten**

“A child spends 900 hours a year in school and 7,800 hours outside school. Which teacher has the bigger influence? Where is more time available for change?”

Jim Trelease, Honorary Chair, Read!  
Springfield Native and Best Selling Author *The Read Aloud Handbook*



**The Read initiative will be aimed at engaging the entire community in reading to young children, knowing that they will be playing a role in the child's ultimate success in school and beyond.**

The entire community – parents, relatives, older siblings, early education teachers and volunteers – will all have a vital role to play in this effort.



## Why Reading Success by 4th Grade is So Important

*Until third grade, a child learns to read. After third grade, a child reads to learn.* Research shows that reading abilities in third grade act as a telltale barometer for later school success. If students are not reading at or above grade level by third grade they will continue to struggle academically in later years.

## What You Can Do

Parents and a variety of caregivers represent a child's first and most important teachers. Studies emphatically indicate that children who are read to on a regular basis do better in school.

- **Read to a child**  
“The most important 20 minutes of your day is reading to a child”
- **Donate** gently used books
- **Volunteer** to read to children in school, and at early education centers and libraries

**Details on all of these and other activities will be forthcoming**

## On the Horizon – The Green Boxes

Modeled after a successful program in Ithaca, New York ([www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org)), the initiative will be working with other partners over the next many months to create and distribute green boxes filled with gently used, donated books to local businesses and community organizations. Still in the planning stage, this free lending library will offer a way to get needed books into the hands of young children and their families in Springfield.



**A Bright Start = A Bright Future**