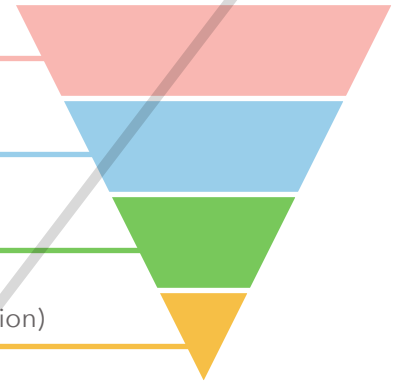


GUIDE TO FUNDING LITERACY

PROVIDING THE IMPACT-MINDED CLARITY IN GIVING WELL AND EMPOWERING THEIR COMMUNITY

Reaping the benefits of a literate community is no simple task. If it was achievable by just telling kids to read more, it would have already been done. Community empowerment through literacy initiatives is complex and multifaceted. The goal of this guide is to provide clarity by highlighting **4 building blocks to look for when deciding how to best invest in literacy.**

1. **ACCESS TO BOOKS** (something to read)
2. **COMPREHENSION** (benefit from what is read)
3. **REPRESENTATION** (visualize self & others)
4. **BREAKING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS** (enlightenment & call to action)



BUILDING BLOCK	DATA-DRIVEN	PROVEN IMPACTFUL EFFORTS
ACCESS TO BOOKS (something to read)	Book ownership is a recommended part of a literacy-rich environment for children, impacting cognitive development, language skills, and overall academic achievement. <i>American Academy of Pediatrics</i>	Book gifting like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library* Community book swaps like WORDSTOCK Book ownership initiatives for kids in foster care like EMpowerME • offering a choice of books at free book fairs
COMPREHENSION (benefit from what is read)	One of the biggest barriers of illiteracy is the lack of a positive reading role model. More than 48 million adults lack basic reading, writing, and math skills beyond a third-grade level. <i>ProLiteracy.org</i>	Literacy tools and programs for mentorship • Confidence building like the Book Bridge Program • Ignite the joy of reading at book clubs Model effective reading strategies using dual language books
REPRESENTATION (visualize self & others)	Low literacy scores disproportionately affects students of color. <i>US Department of Education</i>	Home language literature for Family Literacy Diverse literature options within free book fairs Community partnerships with organizations like Malone Center and Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
BREAKING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS (enlighten & call to action)	Low literacy impacts every aspect of life and every person as a result. Populations at-risk for unemployment, low educational attainment, and lack of access to healthcare overlap with areas where low literacy rates are highest. <i>Barbara Bush Foundation</i>	Building awareness by screening the film "Right To Read" and facilitating conversations Providing workshops to influence generational change like the Book Bridge Program

* Bold print indicates examples from Linked2Literacy

LINKED2LITERACY is actively engaged in ALL 4 building blocks to make lasting change through literacy empowerment. If you are ready to stop reading the same old story and start writing new beginnings, **here's a clear path forward.**

GIVE WELL

OR GO TO
<https://givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/linked2literacy>

