

Leadership Berks Ready.Set.READ! Overview

Presented by:

Ashley Chambers, Sr. VP, Community Impact

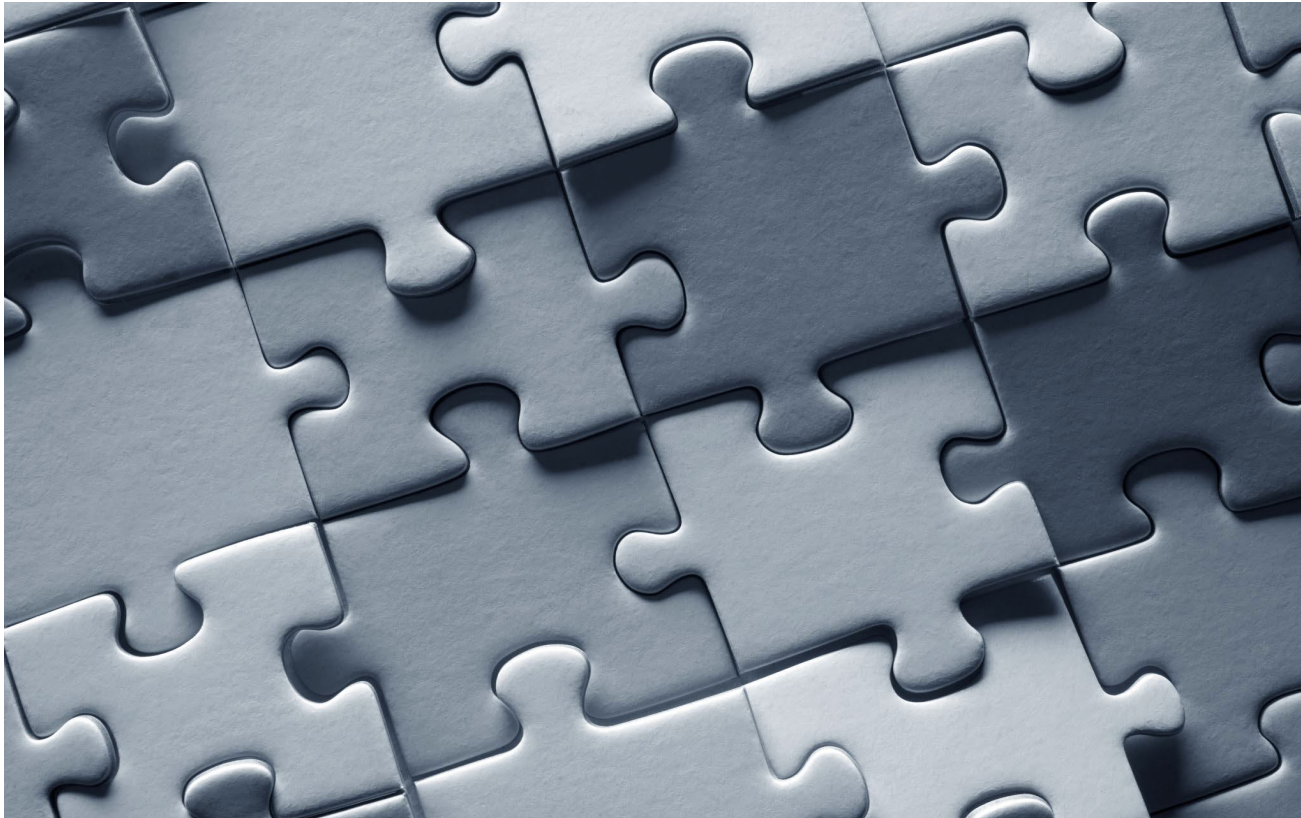
Darby Wiekrykas, Volunteer Engagement Program Manager

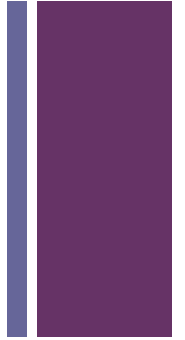


Aspirations For Our Community



Activity





Did you know that up until 3rd grade children are learning to read? Afterwards, they are reading to learn.





50% of third-graders throughout
Berks County are reading below
grade level





Ready.Set.READ! is a community-wide initiative managed by United Way of Berks County.





+ RSR Programming aims to achieve the following:

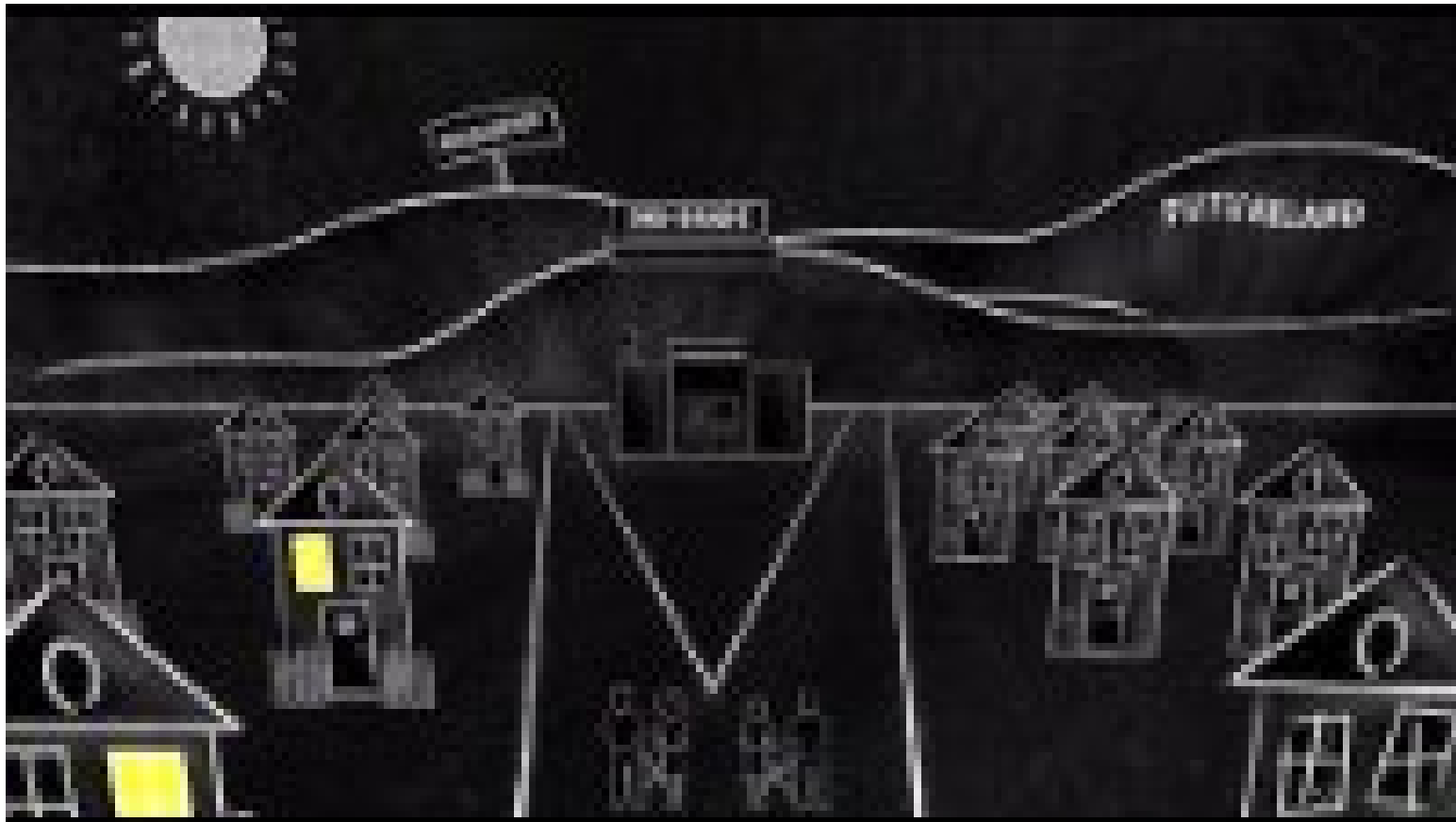
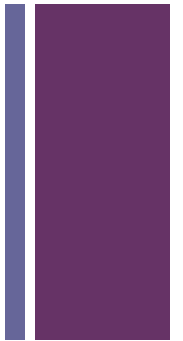


- Provide support to students who are struggling to be proficient readers
- Promote language and pre-literacy development in younger children
- Empower parents and caregivers to help their children read, learn, and develop
- And mobilize the community to take action to improve early grade reading success



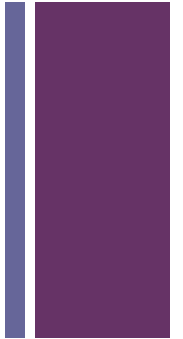


+ Why?





Program Spotlight

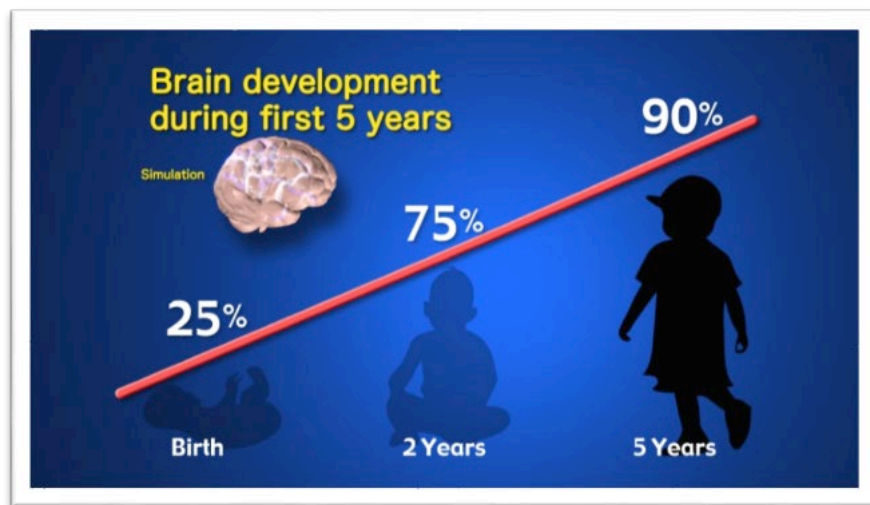


- Growing Readers
 - Early Childhood Initiative
- Read With Me
 - Pre-K/Kindergarten Initiative
- Read Alliance and Star Readers
 - School Age Initiative





+ Growing Readers



- 90% of a child's brain capacity develops in the first five years of their lives.
- Language development, the building block of life, begins at birth.
- Experiences in the first 5 years (+ or -) affect future success in school and later in life.
- Investing in the earliest years produces dividends in development, life, security, the economy and innovation.



Growing Readers



- Focus on educating childcare professionals to adapt classroom practices by moving from safe quality care to safe quality early childhood education.
- Empowering childcare professionals to utilize precious time with children in the most important developmental years.





Professional Development: CDA Training

How:

- Educate
- Support
- Remove Obstacles
- Encourage
- Visible change





+ Read With Me

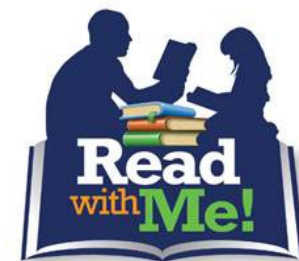
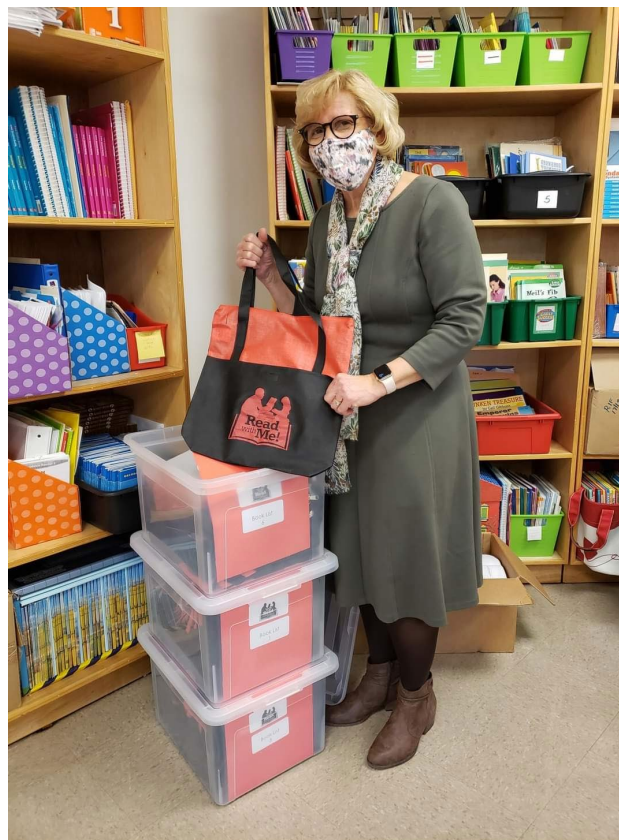
- Book borrowing program
- Currently in 2 childcare centers and 5 elementary schools in Reading School District.
- In a total of 40 Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms.
- A tote bag with books is borrowed each week.





+ Read With Me

- Supports families in establishing home reading routines.
- Encourages connections to their local libraries.
- Studies show that reading to a child 15 - 20 minutes a day improves early childhood development & reading comprehension later in life.





Read Alliance



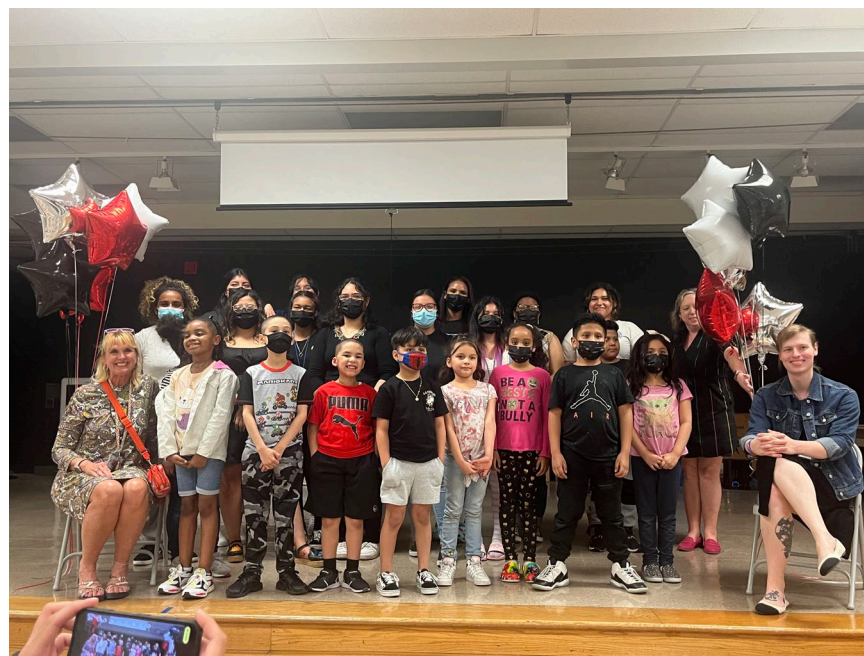
- Dual Impact program to support struggling readers in Kindergarten through Second Grade and address youth unemployment





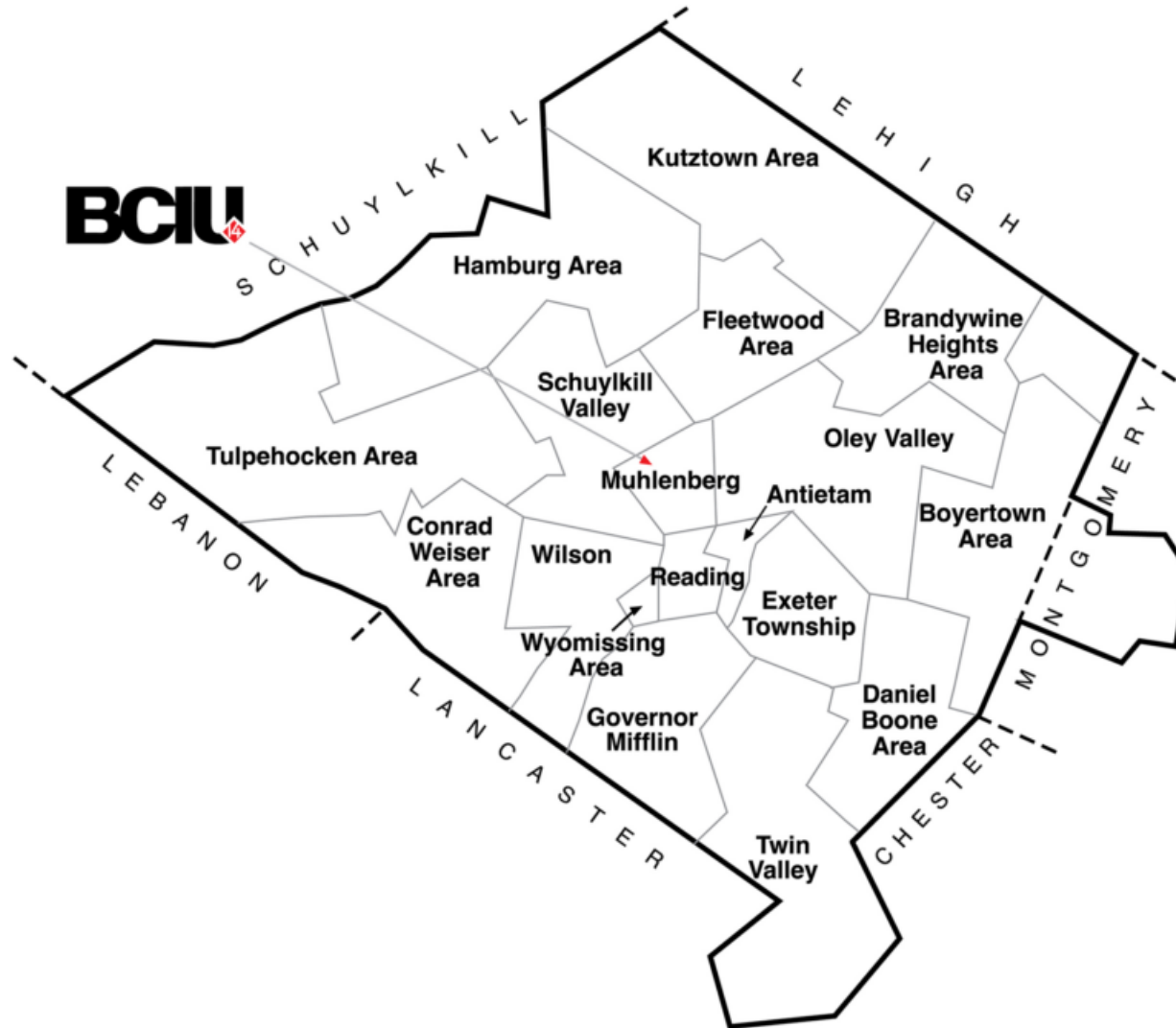
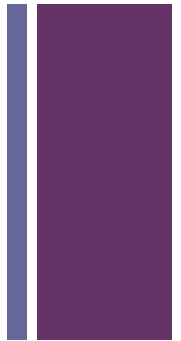
+ Read Alliance

- Now in year 4!
- First piloted at 10th & Penn Elementary and Olivet Boys and Girls Club
- Last school year grew to five elementary schools serving 123 first graders being tutored by 77 high school students.
- 98 of first graders experienced at least one year's worth of growth in reading.





Star Readers



Star
Readers



Star Readers

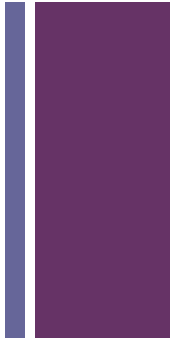
- Trained volunteer tutors
- Tutor 2nd graders
- One-on-one tutoring sessions
- 1 day per week (for 1 hour)
- For students reading just below grade level



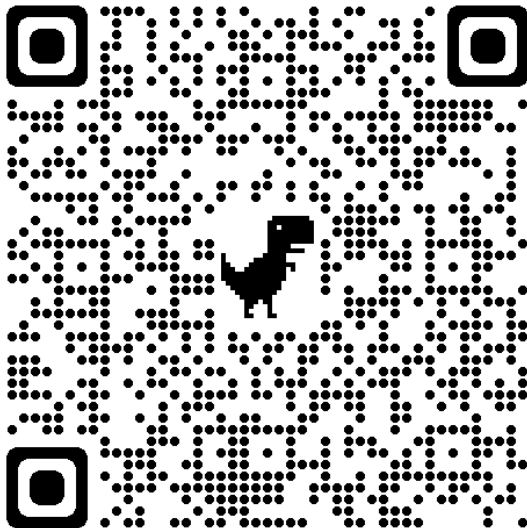
Star
Readers



How You Can Support Early Childhood Education



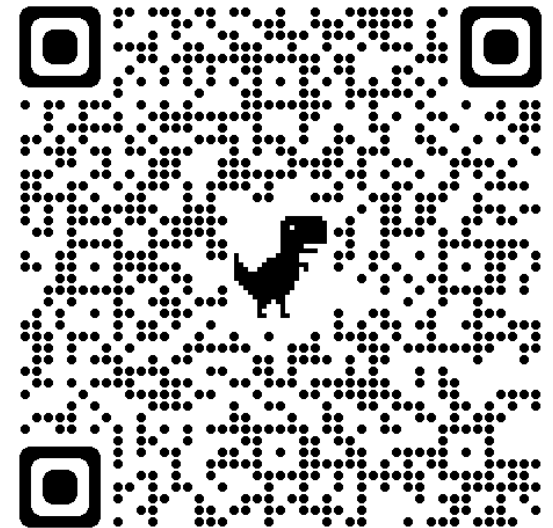
- Become a tutor! (Talk to Darby about that 😊)
- Become an Advocate
 - Use these QR codes to sign up and receive information on early childhood education issues in Pennsylvania.



Pre-K for PA



Start Strong PA



+ Questions/Comments

■ Learn more: readyssetreadberks.org

