

Chairs Frederick, McClain and members of the committee,

For the record, I am Carol Greenough, a retired psychologist who worked in schools for over 40 years and also with adults who never learned how to read. I see the crisis in literacy as at least important as the crisis we faced with the pandemic.

We have seen the devastating effects of reading failure on the future and self esteem of so many students and adults. So, after years of pushing for stronger state involvement to mandate effective reading instruction in our schools, I thought the passage of HB 3198 would be my happy day.

Now, faced with the partial shutdown of our legislature, I am unclear if this bill will go anywhere this year. We are failing our children. You have heard from many about the value of the programs HB3198 proposes. I am asking that we don't stop there - whether or not it passes.

I am appealing to every legislator who has supported some version of the literacy bill to step up and be a hero. You have the power to make sure we don't ask our children to wait another two years for change to happen. Please:

1. Fully support executive order 23-12 which will assure we finally teach the science of reading in our teacher preparation programs.
2. Use the oversight power of the legislature to make sure that we don't waste this time, that the Department of Education continues to develop the structures, research, and means of implementation so that we can hit the ground running when a bill does pass. Also, leverage all existing programs to move towards comprehensive research-based literacy instruction now. As seen in the testimony, you have many willing community partners to help make this happen.
3. In my in-person testimony, I urged you to be leaders for literacy in our communities. Use your bully pulpit to talk everywhere about how parents and society can enhance early

literacy. I am uploading a brief handout of the sort that you could share with people at town halls, suggesting activities that anyone who has contact with children can use to help them build the foundation of early literacy.

Thank you as always for your service and support.

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.

Early Language Development

Fun activities to do with preschoolers in the home



Learning about language

Parents and other significant adults play a big role in helping their children learn about books, sounds and language. There are things you can do every day as part of your daily routine that will help your children develop the language skills they will need when they begin to read.

Read Aloud: Read to your child every day, even from a young age.

Choose age-appropriate books with colorful illustrations and engaging stories.

Reading aloud helps build vocabulary, comprehension, and a love for books.

Introduce nursery rhymes, songs, and fingerplays that involve repetition and rhythm.

These activities help develop phonemic awareness, which is crucial for learning to read and write.

Engage your child in meaningful conversations throughout the day. Encourage them to express their thoughts and feelings, and actively listen to their responses.

This helps develop vocabulary, comprehension, and communication skills.

Sound Scavenger Hunt

Choose a letter sound, then have your child find things around your house that start with the same sound. "Can you find



something in our house that starts



with the letter "p"
pppppp sound?
Picture, pencil,
pear

Learn lots more at [ReadingRockets.org](https://www.readingrockets.org)