



# Prepared for School Prepared for Life

Every Child Reads  
Dubuque

**A child's first eight years are the best time to foster positive development, support academic achievement and prepare children for a lifetime of success.** Every Child Reads does this by taking a holistic approach to children's well-being with a keen focus on a key predictor of school success: Reading proficiency by the end of third grade.

## Why It Matters

Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is one of the key predictors of high school graduation. However, only half of third-graders in Dubuque public schools meet this benchmark, and children from low-income families are even further behind. Furthermore, 13% of Dubuque children are chronically absent, putting them at even greater risk for learning loss. Many children who fall behind in school lack access to essential support systems that would enable them to increase their academic success, preparing them for college, careers and active citizenship.

\* 2019-20 school year ended March 13, 2020 due to coronavirus pandemic

## Our Unique Role

Hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Every Child Reads builds on the organization's strengths: Forging relationships and convening community partners to transform the systems that serve people.

We facilitate a multi-sector network to share resources and chart a course to help children succeed. Together, we:

- Build community awareness of children's academic and social-emotional needs.
- Provide a unified vision and strategy to improve academic success and child well-being inside and outside the classroom.
- Fund child- and family-focused initiatives by utilizing existing financial resources and offering a way for generous community members to give in support of children's well-being.
- Collect local data to inform our work.

## How It Works

Our work is informed by the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading and focuses on four areas that serve as the foundation of academic achievement: School attendance, school readiness, summer learning and access to books. We also facilitate a working group of service providers, educators, parents and civic leaders to devise and implement strategies for addressing children's social-emotional well-being — factors that impact their ability to focus and learn.

## Our Accomplishments

- Distributed more than 2,000 free books in 2021
- Partnered with nonprofits to support new social-emotional learning opportunities that benefitted 170 children in 2020
- With St. Mark Youth Enrichment the Dream Center Dubuque Community School District and other partners, offer an annual summer program that helps more than 90% of participants maintain or improve reading proficiency
- Dubuque named an All-America City based on efforts to improve reading proficiency and early school success
- Partner with Sesame Street in Communities to offer free resources for educators and families
- Created books for children about school attendance and wellness
- Organized education groups to empower parents to support children's academic success and positive development
- Named a Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Pacesetter seven times since 2012

# Get Involved



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