

# FY2024 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Read to Succeed	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Pre-K All-day   Literacy and Kindergarten-Readiness	
<b>Reporting Quarter:</b> (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
	X	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)

## Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<p>R2S kicked off Q1 with early childhood support across Asheville!</p> <p>6 PreK students attending Chosen PODS summer camp worked with R2S reading teachers and tutors 2 - 3x/week through mid-August. Assessments completed in July helped identify student needs and informed literacy instruction they received one-to-one with a tutor or in whole and small group lessons with trained staff. PreK students practiced writing their names, identifying letter sounds and forming letters, reading consonant-vowel-consonant words, and more. They participated in 4 read-aloud visits with Ms. Anne of Books Alive! and earned multiple reward days through the new R2S/Chosen PODS Positive Behavior Incentives System (PBIS).</p> <p>R2S Co-ED Ashley Allen worked at Youthful HAND with PreK students using FUNdations' PreK curriculum. Ashley Allen taught nine students listening, speaking, and phonological skills crucial for kindergarten readiness four days a week, in addition to exposing students to the FUNdations phonics curriculum (aligned with Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools).</p> <p>R2S and Community Action Opportunities (CAO), the largest Headstart provider in WNC, collaborated in July and August to plan for a year of intentional partnership. R2S participated in their Hillcrest Headstart Open House, distributing literacy kits featuring a Black board book with accompanying letter formation literacy activities to 25+ families and engaging PreK students in phonological awareness (PA) and phonics games. A PA training for 60 CAO educators/staff was scheduled for early October, and Co-Executive Director Ashley Allen recruited Black community members as guest readers who will begin reading with students in October at the Lonnie D. Burton and Hillcrest centers.</p> <p>R2S Co-EDs Allen and Jess McLean met with leadership at both Christine Avery Learning Center and YWCA in September to plan out partnership components for the 2023-2024 school year.</p>
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<b>Quarter 2</b>	<p>Read 2 Succeed (R2S) dove headfirst into Q2 early childhood support with trainings, guest readers, launching a new volunteer program, events, and more! In addition to leading an early literacy phonological awareness workshop with all 60 staff members from Community Action Opportunities (CAO) – representing 18 Head Start centers and serving over 350 children – R2S Co-Executive Director Ashley Allen also provided coaching and new PreK phonics curriculum to educators at Christine Avery Learning Center (CWA).</p> <p>Three guest readers joined students 3 - 5 years in the most diverse CAO Head Start Centers 15 times in Q2 for engaging read-alouds with extension activities, and trained R2S reading tutors signed on for a new volunteer program where they work one-to-one or in small groups with students in partner PreK classes.</p> <p>R2S contracted an early childhood specialist to help generate evidence-based materials for literacy kits, read-alouds, and book bundles to support guest readers, volunteers, and early childhood families. We distributed over 200 Book Bundles to early childhood partners in December.</p> <p>While we participated in more than 10 community and family events this quarter, four really focused on also engaging families with children 0 - 5, including Pisgah View Head Start Fall Family Fun Day, CWA Fall Festival, Chosen PODS Trunk-or-Treat, and the 2nd Annual R2S Community Holiday Extravaganza. R2S provided live readers, literacy centers and games, free books and reading resources for families, and more! Famous children's book author Derrick Barnes joined families in December as well for a very special visit where he shared his new books.</p>
<b>Quarter 3</b>	

**Quarter 4**

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## Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				toward
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of instructional hours served in early childhood classrooms providing literacy support to students and teachers	75	90	33			123
# of community partners' staff/volunteer/intern training sessions conducted	8	0	2			2
# of evidence-based literacy games, activities, and centers designed, developed, and shared with early childhood partners	50	1	6			7

### Comments:

*NOTE: While R2S distributes hundreds of evidence-based literacy games, activities, and centers, we only count "unique" items for the results in row 16. The six unique activities their include resources shared with local early childhood partners and book bundles for PreK families.*

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## Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,740	\$ 8,653			\$ 37,607
Travel/Training	\$ 800		\$ 80			\$ 720
Technology	\$ 1,000		\$ 400			\$ 600
Curriculum/Assessments	\$ 1,000		\$ 566			\$ 434
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation	\$ 500		\$ 300			\$ 200
Supplies/Materials	\$ 6,000	\$ 679	\$ 1,355			\$ 3,966
Building Maintenance/Repair						\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 1,500	\$ 827	\$ 673			\$ -
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,	\$ 3,000	\$ 527	\$ -			\$ 2,473
Other - Culturally Responsive books	\$ 2,500		\$ 678			\$ 1,822
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 66,300</b>	<b>\$ 5,773</b>	<b>\$ 12,705</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 47,822</b>

**Comments:**

# FY2024 Q2 Early Childhood Grant Report

Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2023

## Summary (1500 characters)

Read 2 Succeed (R2S) dove headfirst into Q2 early childhood support with trainings, guest readers, launching a new volunteer program, events, and more!

In addition to leading an early literacy phonological awareness workshop with all 60 staff members from Community Action Opportunities (CAO) – representing 18 Head Start centers and serving over 350 children – R2S Co-Executive Director Ashley Allen also provided coaching and new PreK phonics curriculum to educators at Christine Avery Learning Center (CWA).

Three guest readers joined students 3 - 5 years in the most diverse CAO Head Start Centers 15 times in Q2 for engaging read-alouds with extension activities, and trained R2S reading tutors signed on for a new volunteer program where they work one-to-one or in small groups with students in partner PreK classes.

R2S contracted an early childhood specialist to help generate evidence-based materials for literacy kits, read-alouds, and book bundles to support guest readers, volunteers, and early childhood families. We distributed over 200 Book Bundles to early childhood partners in December.

While we participated in more than 10 community and family events this quarter, four really focused on also engaging families with children 0 - 5, including Pisgah View Head Start Fall Family Fun Day, CWA Fall Festival, Chosen PODS Trunk-or-Treat, and the 2nd Annual R2S Community Holiday Extravaganza. R2S provided live readers, literacy centers and games, free books and reading resources for families, and more! Famous children's book author Derrick Barnes joined families in December as well for a very special visit where he shared his new books.

## In-Depth Narrative

### Training

R2S Co-ED Ashley Allen led a training with all 60 Community Action Opportunities (CAO) staff members in early October focusing on phonological awareness in early childhood and best practices for implementing the evidence-based phonemic awareness curriculum Heggerty with children 3 - 5 years. All participants received lunch and classroom resources for their Head Start and PreK centers, including culturally-responsive board books and letter-sound manipulatives.

Community Action Opportunities has 18 Head Start centers in Buncombe County; during the month of October when educators representing all 18 centers completed the R2S training, they served 380 children, ages 3 - 5 years old.

56 participants completed a post-training evaluation and 100% reported 5/5 for each category listed below:

- The learning objectives of this session were made clear to me.
- The trainer made the topic interesting.
- The information was presented clearly and in an organized way.
- I gained skills I can use immediately in my job.
- There was enough opportunity for interaction and participation.
- The trainer was polite and professional.

Written feedback included testimonials like:

- "I appreciate the hands-on practice."
- "Great Session! Very engaging! Thank you!"
- "Great presentation! Best training in a long time!"
- "Great engaging training/trainer. Can't wait to get into practice."

Additional one-to-one training occurred with two Christine W. Avery Learning Center PreK educators during Q2 onsite in their classrooms. R2S provided a new PreK Foundations curriculum and walked through best practices for using the materials to teach early literacy skills to 4 and 5-year-old students. Foundations is the evidence-based phonics curriculum published by Wilson Reading Systems and used in Asheville City and Buncombe County Schools.

## Guest Readers

R2S launched a weekly guest reader program in Q2 in partnership with CAO. Ms. Anne of Books Alive!, R2S staff member and Community Engagement Coordinator Toshia Sitton, and local community member Devon Lockett visited with 3 - 5 year old students at four CAO centers beginning in October for weekly read-alouds and extension activities. 15 total read-alouds occurred across October (22.5 total instructional hours), November, and December. Center locations include CAO's most racially diverse - Lonnie D. Burton in the Southside Community, Hillcrest, Pisgah View Apartments, and Johnston (near Deaverview).

The student demographic breakdown of the 128 total students enrolled in those centers reflects ~ 48% Black, 22% Hispanic, 11% multi-racial, 19% white/other.

These visits typically involved a guest reader reading 2 - 3 books aloud and engaging students in rich discussion of the themes, illustrations, and vocabulary in the book. Then the guest reader worked with staff to lead students through a related extension activity or craft to "extend" their experience with the text. For example, on one visit to the PVA Head Start Center, Ms. Anne of Books Alive! read "Alma and How She Got Her Name" with students. She then led them through

a craft of writing the uppercase first letter of their name on a blank page and gluing torn strips of colored construction paper over the outline of the letter. Students practiced saying the letter name and sound as they crafted (all while practicing listening and fine motor skills too!).

Guest reader Devon read “ABC Look at Me” by Roberta Grobel Intrater, which explores baby’s emotions using first sound recognition; for example, the book shares “E is excited” with a photograph of a baby’s face. During the extension activity, students used a template of a face to draw themselves expressing different emotions they may experience. In addition to practicing a fundamental early literacy skill, this book and activity also explored important social emotional learning (SEL) by leading students in identifying emotions in themselves and others.

We are excited to formalize a library of these read-aloud kits in Q3, adding to the kits already created - kits include a children’s book, script/reading guide for the reader complete with comprehension questions and phonological awareness prompts, and an extension activity (often a craft focusing on a phonological skill and fine motor practice) with instructions and supplies.

R2S contracted Early Childhood specialist and former Kindergarten teacher, Julianne Stickley, to support content and literacy kit creation during Q2. Stickley utilized her Bachelors in Birth-K Professional Education to help create holiday-specific read aloud kits (featuring a variety of holidays like Kwanzaa, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, etc.) that support early literacy and developmental milestones. While creating activities and comprehension scripts for guest readers, Stickley also created content for curated reading guides to give to students and families in R2S Early Childhood Winter Book Bundles.

## Volunteers

R2S launched its first-ever Early Childhood Volunteer program in partnership with CAO. Three trained reading tutors completed additional volunteer screenings to formerly become volunteers at Lonnie D. Burton and Hillcrest, serving 10 total hours in December with students 3 - 5 years old. Volunteers give students the opportunity to engage one-to-one or in small groups with an adult and practice early literacy skills. Two additional volunteers will join this group in early 2024, and R2S contractor Julianne Stickley will continue to support the creation of grab-and-go literacy center materials specifically for this program.

## Community & Family Reading Events

While R2S sees tons of early childhood families across the majority of community and family events we participate in, the following are the big four that were geared towards children 0 - 5 and their families in Q2.

- **Pisgah View Head Start Fall Family Fun** - PVA’s Head Start Center hosted a parent engagement event in late October during their school day. R2S came out at 9 AM to entertain the kids with literacy games and free bilingual and culturally responsive books,



while parents and caregivers got to hear about programs and opportunities at Head Start for them and their students.

- **Christine W. Avery (CWA) Fall Festival** - CWA hosted its annual Fall Festival at MLK, Jr. Park. R2S set up a tent with games and prizes, gave away almost 100 culturally responsive books, and shared family resources like reading comprehension guides and developmental milestone documents.
- **Chosen PODS Trunk-or-Treat** - the Arthur R. Edington Center hosted their Trunk or Treat event on Halloween. Not only did R2S Staff and volunteers come out, but we also recruited over 20 UNCA athletes to volunteer in addition to a member of Junior League Asheville. 175+ families attended, including many with children under the age of 5, and enjoyed face painting, games, literacy centers, bookmark decorating, live read-alouds with Books Alive!, cotton candy, hot cocoa and cider, and more!
- **Community Holiday Extravaganza** - R2S was honored to be in community with over 250 families and students at our 2nd Annual Community Holiday Extravaganza. This event featured two Black-owned food trucks, local Black performer Virtuous and DJ Big Wave, and nationally acclaimed children's book author Derrick Barnes. We served hot cocoa and snacks and families played loads of fun literacy carnival games with prizes; Buncombe Partnership for Children hosted a cookie decorating table, and R2S gave away 100+ curated reading kits with Derrick Barnes' new book Santa's Gotta Go, comprehension guides, and a holiday toy. Derrick Barnes also read his book to families and signed copies!

## Book Distribution

More than 200 Winter Break Bundles went out to early childhood students in December through R2S partners CWA, YWCA, and Community Action Opportunities. Winter Break Book Bundles featured "Baby Young, Gifted and Black" by Jamia Wilson (Author), Andrea Pippins (Illustrator) with a custom comprehension guide, small plushie toy, and family reading newsletter.

Additional resources distributed with bundles and hundreds of other culturally-responsive early childhood books at events listed above include Developmental Milestones for Children 0-5 (translated into Spanish with the help of a local Head Start parent), comprehension guide (general version \*and\* versions customized to a bundle-specific book), a directory of free reading apps, and more.