

FY2024 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

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

Quarter 1	<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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<p>Quarter 2</p>	<p>Read 2 Succeed (R2S) dove headfirst into Q2 early childhood support with trainings, guest readers, launching a new volunteer program, events, and more!</p> <p>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>
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<p>Quarter 3</p>	<p>Read 2 Succeed (R2S) continued critical early childhood work in Q3 with literacy-focused read-alouds, trainings, family events, and book and resource distribution.</p> <p>Kicking off January, R2S Co-Executive Director Ashley Allen led an early literacy phonological awareness workshop with 22 staff members from Christine W. Avery Learning Center (CWA) – across their three centers, CWA serves 55 children 3 - 5 years old.</p> <p>Read-alouds resumed in March with students 3 - 5 years in the most diverse CAO Head Start Centers, and 5 trained R2S reading tutors continued working one-to-one and in small groups with students in partner PreK classes.</p> <p>R2S formally welcomed Ms. Ann Davis of Books Alive! to the team as a part-time Storytime Specialist, and we continued contracting early childhood specialist Julianne Stickley to help co-design and create early childhood content for the website/blog as well as read-aloud kits and early literacy bundles for the Resource Library. R2S staff also prepared and delivered more than 300 Spring Break book bundles for students at early childhood partners at CWA, YWCA, Community Actions Opportunities (Johnston, Lonnie D. Burton, Pisgah View, and Hillcrest centers).</p> <p>R2S joined Buncombe Partnership for Children's (BPFC) Ready for Kindergarten! Information Session at the West Asheville Library in January, and we celebrated with families in the Pisgah View Apartments community during Black Children's Book Week at the end of February, welcoming children's book author Dantavius Washington from Birmingham, AL.</p>
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<p>Quarter 4</p>	<p>Q4 was our biggest early childhood month yet, with four trainings for early childhood partners, engaging more than 100 community members and partner organization staff. Every trainee also received evidence-based literacy materials to put to use implementing the skills and knowledge they learned at training - including culturally-responsive board books, indestructibles, reading games and activities, phonics and comprehension lesson planning templates, and more!</p> <p>Trained R2S volunteers, guest readers (including Storytime Specialist Ms. Ann), and licensed instructors also served nearly 70 hours Apr - June directly in classrooms with PreK students, supporting teachers, and working one-to-one, in small groups, and in whole groups on early reading skills.</p> <p>We distributed hundreds of literacy resources directly to partners at Community Action Opportunities (Johnston, PVA, Hillcrest, and Lonnie D. Burton Centers), YWCA, Christine Avery Learning Center (CWA), and Verner Early Learning Center (for more than 250 children 0-5). PreK Graduation Book Bundles, for example, included two Black children's books, a curated comprehension guide, summer fun activities, and important milestone information for students.</p> <p>R2S participated in five early childhood events in Q4, reaching thousands of children and families with reading-based games, free books, and literacy resources - from Buncombe Partnership for Children's KidsFest to BC Public Libraries Summer Library Fest to Verner's Summer Fun Fest and more!</p> <p>Check out our in-depth narrative for more info.</p>
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Progress toward annual goals

		Actual Results (Enter Data)				
		Please only include new data for the specific quarter				
Measure	Annual Goal	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	toward
# of instructional hours served in early childhood classrooms providing literacy support to students and teachers	75	90	33	37	69	228
# of community partners' staff/volunteer/intern training sessions conducted	8	0	2	3	4	9
# of evidence-based literacy games, activities, and centers designed, developed, and shared with early childhood partners	50	1	6	34	26	67

Comments:

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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	\$ 32,000	\$ 3,740.00	\$ 8,653.34	\$ 7,654.86	\$ 11,952.00	\$ (0)
Travel/Training	\$ 1,300		\$ 80.00	\$ 665.46	\$ 555.00	\$ (0)
Technology	\$ 2,000		\$ 400.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Curriculum/Assessments	\$ 1,000		\$ 566.25		\$ 434.00	\$ (0)
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation	\$ 500		\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00		\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 8,500	\$ 679.00	\$ 1,354.76	\$ 3,083.36	\$ 3,201.78	\$ 181
Building Maintenance/Repair						\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 2,500	\$ 827.00	\$ 673.00		\$ 994.00	\$ 6
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,	\$ 8,500	\$ 527.00	\$ -	\$ 4,973.50	\$ 2,999.50	\$ -
Other - Culturally Responsive books	\$ 10,000		\$ 678.00	\$ 4,322.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Total	\$ 66,300	\$ 5,773	\$ 12,705	\$ 21,499	\$ 26,136	\$ 186

Comments:

FY2024 Q4 Early Childhood Grant Report

Apr 1 - June 30, 2024

Summary (1500 characters)

Q4 was our biggest early childhood month yet, with four trainings for early childhood partners, engaging more than 100 community members and partner organization staff. Every trainee also received evidence-based literacy materials to put to use implementing the skills and knowledge they learned at training - including culturally-responsive board books, indestructibles, reading games and activities, phonics and comprehension lesson planning templates, and more!

Trained R2S volunteers, guest readers (including Storytime Specialist Ms. Ann), and licensed instructors also served nearly 70 hours Apr - June directly in classrooms with PreK students, supporting teachers, and working one-to-one, in small groups, and in whole groups on early reading skills.

We distributed hundreds of literacy resources directly to partners at Community Action Opportunities (Johnston, PVA, Hillcrest, and Lonnie D. Burton Centers), YWCA, Christine Avery Learning Center (CWA), and Verner Early Learning Center (for more than 250 children 0-5). PreK Graduation Book Bundles, for example, included two Black children's books, a curated comprehension guide, summer fun activities, and important milestone information for students.

R2S participated in five early childhood events in Q4, reaching thousands of children and families with reading-based games, free books, and literacy resources - from Buncombe Partnership for Children's KidsFest to BC Public Libraries Summer Library Fest to Verner's Summer Fun Fest and more!

Check out our in-depth narrative for more info.

In-Depth Narrative

Training

1) May Week with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

For Delta's Education Day as a part of their annual May Week, R2S provided strategies for caretakers to help children develop and strengthen literacy. 8 parents, grandparents, and caretakers joined for the in-person presentation to learn practical ways to support literacy development in children 0 to 5, and PreK- 5th grade. Afterward, R2S answered individual questions and distributed age-appropriate materials to help with their students'

daily reading, along with books and general comprehension guides.

How many folks joined and where and for how long? What did we train/workshop?

Post-training survey results:

100% of three respondents rated the training 5 out of 5 for the following prompts:

- I feel more confident about supporting my student with reading at home.
- I better understand the cognitive, social/emotional, and relationship-building benefits of daily reading at home.
- The training provided me with practical strategies for supporting literacy with my child at home.
- The training provided me with fun and engaging ideas for daily reading with my student.
- I would recommend R2S for future trainings/workshops.

When asked what best practices they learned in training that they planned to implement, respondents shared:

- Creating a reading routine, Creating a reward system around my student's daily reading, Asking open-ended questions after reading, Using the age-appropriate materials provided by R2S at the end of the training
- "Narrating" my daily actions to my infant/toddler, Asking open-ended questions after reading, Using the age-appropriate materials provided by R2S at the end of the training
- "Narrating" my daily actions to my infant/toddler, Creating a reading routine, Asking open-ended questions after reading

2) Chosen PODS Summer Camp Staff Training

R2S provided the staff at our community partner Chosen PODS, with multiple presentations across 3 days in preparation for summer programming: workshoping reading games, behavior management skills, self and student regulation, literacy in the summer, and more. Staff members from PVA's summer program also joined, bringing the total staff served to 28 individuals. Both summer programs serve rising K students and work with them toward kindergarten readiness.

Post-training survey results:

On a scale of 1 to 5 for the following questions, 100% of respondents (18) answered with a 4 or higher:

- The training provided me with practical strategies or activities for supporting learning during summer camp.

- I understand the four functions of behavior (attention, escape, access, sensory needs) more than I did before this training?
- The training provided me with practical strategies or activities to manage student behaviors in my classroom.
- The training provided me with practical strategies to create incentives/rewards systems for my classroom.
- The training provided me with practical strategies for supporting regulation with myself and my students.

When asked to list 2 activities they plan to use to support literacy during summer camp, respondents wrote:

- Read aloud, categories
- The puzzle games, and the color reward system
- Snap it up and the ABC game
- Opposites puzzle and compound working puzzle
- Mindfulness activity and compound contest
- The last sound of a word and make a new word with the last sound, and clapping syllables
- Going on walks and making slime
- Playing games, drawing
- Sounds game where you say a word then the next person starts their word with the last sound of the first word
- Opposites game
- Snap it up and 5 letter to make a sentence
- Opposite word game and syllable game
- name game and categories
- "The games we played I don't remember the names And mindfulness "
- The educational games and benefits of mindfulness.
- Ice breaker and sing a long
- This and that and the dice game

Additional survey feedback included:

- "VERY HELPFUL!"
- "[The trainers] did amazing!"
- "You guys do an amazing job at what you do and come up with new strategies for not only us but for other future teachers as well thank you some much!!"
- "I enjoyed the training"
- "Yes, I benefited from this experience and I would love to get follow ups."

3) **Christine W. Avery Learning Center (CWA) Summer Camp Staff Training**

R2S provided literacy training for CWA's summer program to ensure that students are receiving adequate literacy instruction. This training catered to 22 instructors whose background in education is not in education and provided them with Science of Reading

knowledge and practical tools for literacy instruction ages rising K to rising 5th grade. Instructors left the training with materials and resources to promote literacy for their students rising K through rising 6th grade. Materials such as sight words, comprehension guides, phonics and comprehension lesson planning templates, and phonics and comprehension questions activities for students to engage with.

Post-training survey results:

When asked to rate their response on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the worst, 5 being the best) for the following prompts, 75% or more of the 8 respondents marked 5:

- The training provided me with a better understanding of how children build reading skills according to the Science.
- The training provided me with a better understanding of the Big 5 skill areas needed to support a skilled reader.
- The training provided me with practical strategies for supporting literacy in out-of-school time.
- The training supported me in making decisions around next steps in planning literacy instruction during out-of-school time.

When asked to list one to two activities they plan to use to support literacy during out-of-school time, respondents shared:

- Sounding out words
- Acting out stories, rereading stories
- Enrichment and engagement activities
- Riddle books, tapping it out
- Flash cards
- Crafts after reading, allowing kids to reread books, syllable practice during transition times
- Planning checklist and guides
- Games

When asked if they would recommend R2S for future trainings, 7 out of 8 respondents said 5 out of 5!

Additional testimonials included:

- Very good
- I thought it was great!
- Great presentation
- It was great!! Thank you, super informative
- Love it

4) AmeriHealth Caritas' Community Baby Shower

AmeriHealth Caritas hosted a Community Baby Shower open to the community geared at providing support and resources to new and expecting mothers. The moms enjoyed

food, gifts, raffle prizes and informative presentations from community organizations such as R2S.

Co-ED Ashley Allen presented on literacy building in children aged 0 to 5- strategies such as Serve and Return and how to choose the “right fit” book. R2S gave away board books, Indestructibles books, developmental milestones documents, pregnancy resource documents, and information about our organization for ongoing literacy support.

The culturally-responsive indestructibles for expectant parents to take home are infant/toddler-age books made from materials that don't tear, rip, deteriorate, etc. Perfect for slobbering babies!

We did not collect survey data following this quick workshop.

Instructional Hours Served

Guest Readers

Weekly read-alouds resumed full force in Q4 with R2S Storytime Specialist Ms. Ann and staff members DeAngelo Tucker, Toshia Sitton, Lindsey Sterrett, and Jess McLean. Readers visited with students 3 - 5 years at Community Action Opportunities most diverse Head Start centers at Pisgah View Apartments (PVA), Lonnie D. Burton, Hillcrest, and Johnston Elementary - on average, readers engaged with 18 - 25 students per visit, reading books and extending the learning experience with a hands-on activity.

For example, Ms. Ann read “In the Tall Tall Grass” with students, and then students got to decorate little plastic planters and seed grass in dirt inside them. To celebrate Earth Day at another read-aloud, Ms. Ann wore a funny hat, a detective's hat, and used a magnifying glass to be a liter detective, which aligned with the scholastic text she read.

She introduced the children to a globe that represents the earth and asked children what they noticed: “It's round,” and “There are colors.” Ms. Ann shared that the earth has land and water and pointed out where we live on earth. With the read-aloud, she highlighted the letter “r” for reduce, reuse, and recycle. She led a song about reduce, reuse, recycle, and made real-life connections with the children about how they care for the earth when they help at home or in their classroom.

The children also danced like the earth, and read a second book about crayons saving the world. After the read-aloud, children were invited to make their own earth with paper plates, glue, and cut out construction paper. During the activity, children had the opportunity to talk about their art/work and practice fine motor skills with glue sticks, grasping, pulling, and pressing. Children were introduced to new vocabulary terms and practiced letter names/sounds.

Volunteers

R2S early childhood volunteers continued their weekly support with local CAO classrooms at Lonnie D. Burton and Hillcrest, serving 35 total hours through the beginning of June. with students 3 - 5 years old. Volunteers used their Science of Reading training and the R2S Resource Library as they gave students the opportunity to engage one-to-one or in small groups with an adult and practice early literacy skills. They also build instructor capacity by helping to facilitate learning engagement and activities at the direction of the lead teacher.

PreK Instruction in Summer Camp

One R2S instructor is supporting 7 rising kindergarteners at Chosen PODS Summer Camp; she began Monday, June 17, 2024. Ms. Monica pulls small groups of students M-Th each week of summer camp, working on foundational early literacy skills like letter naming, letter sound recognition, and phonemic awareness. Rising kindergarten students also began working with an R2S literacy arts instructor on weekly art-themed reading activities; Ms. Dietra with her assistant Ms. Nevaeh have had students practice writing their names in different colors and they look forward to exploring stories together and painting, crafting, and more!

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 five that were geared towards children 0 - 5 and their families in Q4.

- **Johnston Elementary School (JES) Kinder Enrollment** - R2S Elementary Literacy Director joined JES' Kindergarten Enrollment Day along with Co-ED Ashlet Allen and Volunteer Engagement Coordinator Mary Lawson. We shared free books and family reading resources with families of rising kindergarteners, and talked to them about early literacy, how to support it at home, and important milestones to look for in kindergarten.
- **Buncombe Partnership for Children (BPFC) Kids Fest** - R2S staff joined over 1,000 area families at the annual BPFC Kids Fest. We shared free culturally-responsive children's books, literacy games highlighting PreK skills like letter recognition and letter naming, plus additional family reading resources (general comprehension guide, early childhood literacy milestones, etc.) We had a blast with so many other great early childhood and education organizations there too!
- **Summer Library Fest** - R2S staff engaged families with young children in a Black children's book ring toss and soccer letter match games while sharing free children's books and family reading tips & ideas in our June newsletter.
- **Community Juneteenth Celebration** - R2S' Storytime Specialist Ms. Ann provided Juneteenth-themed Read Alouds to children and families attending the Community Juneteenth Celebration located at The Mule. The event featured bouncy houses, food trucks, music and entertainment, and as always, R2S was tabling and giving away culturally responsive books!

- **Verner's Summer Fun Fest** - R2S staff beat the heat at Verner's annual Summer Fun Fest, sharing diverse board books, Indestructibles, family reading resources, and fun games and prizes with children. These games focused on the sensory and literacy experiences of toddlers and PreK students. R2S' Storytime Specialist Ms. Ann has quite the Read Aloud corner going, regaling learners with summer time stories like Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses!

Evidence-Based Literacy Games and Activities and Book Distribution

Book Bundles for PreK Graduates

In early June, R2S delivered more than 120 PreK Graduation Bundles to students graduating from early childhood partners Community Action Opportunities (Johnston, Hillcrest, PVA, and Lonnie D. Burton locations), CWA, and YWCA.

We curated these bundles with copies of both culturally-responsive children's books "King of Kindergarten" and "Queen of Kindergarten" by Derrick Barnes, as well as a custom comprehension guide focusing on questions and vocabulary specific to the books. We also included an early literacy activity where families could work with their rising kindergartener to identify the parts of the book - an essential milestone. Sidewalk chalk and bubbles for some summer fun topped off the bundles!

R2S family reading newsletters went out monthly to six early childhood partners, featuring a Black children's book recommendation with link to live read-aloud; PreK activity for students to complete, family reading tips and activity ideas, plus important upcoming event announcements.

Visual Sound Wall for CWA PreK Classrooms

After a Phonological Training Awareness Training, R2S worked to print, laminate and distribute picture cards that demonstrated correct mouth formation of phonemes (letter sounds A to Z and Digraphs sh, wh, ck, ch, th). Instructors are utilizing this tool in conjunction with the PreK FUndations kits purchased earlier this year in order to ensure phonological awareness and processor development.

Verner Mobile Classroom Supplies

Verner Early Learning Center asked R2S to help outfit their new mobile classroom with books and early childhood supplies. We helped purchase wooden toddler puzzles, diverse puppets, and Black family toy figure sets in addition to 30+ new culturally-responsive board books for children and families to enjoy as part of their literacy and learning experience!

Supplies & Materials Shared After Trainings

See the above list of trainings for an idea of the comprehensive types of evidence-based materials that go out to community partners and families when they engage in early childhood training with R2S. In addition to distributing age-appropriate materials to help with their students' daily reading, we also shared books, manipulatives, indestructibles, games, and comprehension guides.