

# FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Read to Succeed	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Positive Experiences Around Reading (PEAR)	
<b>Reporting Quarter:</b> (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.

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<p>R2S kicked off Q1 with incredible engagement across multiple family and community events and literacy enrichment activities.</p> <p>In July, we kicked off a new partnership with Asheville PEAK Academy, beginning with supplying 100+ culturally-responsive book bundles for students in the Read to Achieve summer camp. Two Black community members also joined students during the camp to lead read-alouds of Black children's books, exploring vocabulary and comprehension questions together. In September, R2S and PEAK launched a library chaperone program where K-5 PEAK students visit the West Asheville Library accompanied by their teachers, R2S staff, and volunteers.</p> <p>R2S hosted and participated in more than 8 community/family events in Q1, distributing more than 700 books and engaging 400 families with literacy resources and activities. Events included read-alouds with Books Alive! at Chosen PODS summer camp, United 4 Youth Block Party, Edington Back to School Bash, Hillcrest Head Start Open House, Johnston Elementary Summer Institute, Youthful HAND end-of-summer celebration, and Claxton Ice Cream Social Family Night.</p>
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<b>Quarter 2</b>	<p>R2S distributed another 1,100+ children's books in Q2, prioritizing Black main characters, authors, and illustrators. Books are shared with families in a variety of ways, including at on-site family reading and community events, through more than 625 Winter Break Book Bundles, and via school and community partners, incl. Claxton, Jones, Johnston, and Hall Fletcher Elementary schools; early childhood students at CWA, YWCA, and Community Action Opportunities' Lonnie D. Burton, Hillcrest, Johnston, and Pisgah View Head Start Learning Centers; Asheville PEAK Academy, Youthful HAND in Hillcrest, Children First/Communities in Schools, Lucy S. Herring, and Chosen PODS After-School.</p> <p>R2S hosted &amp; participated in 13 community/family events in Q2, reaching 800+ families and community members with literacy resources and activities. Featured guest reader and celebrated children's book author Derrick Barnes engaged students with a visit to Asheville in December - more on that below! Three additional R2S guest readers from the Asheville community joined early childhood students 15 times in Q2, sharing books and literacy-centered extension activities.</p> <p>R2S staff continued to build out the revamped Resource Library located in the R2S office with now more than 2,000 literacy-based activities, worksheets, books, games, and more. R2S tutors and after-school reading instructors started meeting with students in late October and early November and access to the resource library is integral to their lesson planning.</p>
<b>Quarter 3</b>	<p>R2S distributed another 1,400+ books in Q3, prioritizing Black main characters, authors, and illustrators. Books were shared with families in a variety of ways, incl. at on-site family reading and community events engaging 400+ families and community members and through more than 520 Spring Break Book Bundles and family reading newsletters. Partners receiving resources and books incl. Claxton, Jones, Johnston, Lucy S. Herring, and Hall Fletcher Elementary schools; early childhood students at CWA, YWCA, and Community Action Opportunities' Lonnie D. Burton, Hillcrest, Johnston, and Pisgah View Head Start Learning Centers; Asheville PEAK Academy, Youthful HAND in Hillcrest, Children First/Communities in Schools, Lucy S. Herring, and Chosen PODS After-School.</p> <p>R2S hosted &amp; participated in 14 community/family events and workshops in Q3, reaching 340+ families and community members with literacy resources and activities. Featured guest reader and new children's book author Dantavius Washington engaged students while visiting Asheville for Black Children's Book Week (BCBW) in February - more on that below! R2S Storytime Specialist, Ms. Ann of Books Alive!, restarted read-alouds with early childhood students two times in March, sharing books and literacy-centered extension activities.</p> <p>R2S staff finished building out the revamped Resource Library located in the R2S office, which now has more than 3,000 literacy-based activities, worksheets, books, games, and more. R2S tutors and after-school reading instructors started back with students in January, and access to the resource library is integral to their lesson planning.</p>

<b>Quarter 4</b>	<p>R2S wrapped up the school year with another 13 community and family reading events and workshops, where we engaged more than 800 families in literacy activities and distributed another 1,200+ culturally-responsive books.</p> <p>From Kindergarten Enrollment at Johnston Elementary to Buncombe Partnership for Children's KidsFest to the Buncombe County Libraries Summer Fest, AmeriHealth Caritas' Community Baby Shower, Children's First Community Care Day, May Week Family Reading Workshop with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and more . . . there was no shortage of Positive Experiences Around Reading in Asheville and Buncombe County!</p> <p>In addition, multiple guest readers from R2S, including Storytime Specialist Ms. Ann, led 3 - 5-year-old students in different Community Action Opportunities classrooms through vibrant high-impact read-alouds and extension activities each week in Q4.</p> <p>R2S distributed early literacy resources to local families, including indestructible books for infants and toddlers, curated comprehension guides, Spring Break and PreK Graduation Book Bundles, monthly family reading newsletters, board books, developmental milestones references, and more! We published blog articles with book recommendations and created free downloadable printables with summer reading activities for families with PreK and elementary students.</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	Progress
# of culturally responsive books and family reading resources delivered	1000	700	1110	1450	1043	4303
# of season Book Bundles distributed through community partnerships	200	150	670	488	188	1496
# of visits to school, after-school, and/or summer partners by Black children's book authors or guest readers	10	9	17	3	17	46
# of school/partner-based community or family reading events and workshops	10	8	13	14	13	48

### Comments:

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## Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,090	\$ 4,910			\$ 0
Travel	\$ 800		\$ 169	\$ 573	\$ 58	\$ 0
Supplies/Materials	\$ 2,000	\$ 440	\$ 1,560			\$ 0
Meetings	\$ 2,000	\$ 414	\$ 564	\$ 902	\$ 120	\$ 0
Printing/Marketing	\$ 1,000	\$ 554	\$ 133	\$ 313		\$ (1)
Contracts/Vendors	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,526	\$ 2,000	\$ 474		\$ 0
Insurance and Bonds	\$ 1,000	\$ 368	\$ 67	\$ 522	\$ 43	\$ (0)
Culturally Responsive Books	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,774	\$ 6,165	\$ 32	\$ 29	\$ 0
Total	\$ 26,800	\$ 8,165	\$ 15,569	\$ 2,816	\$ 250	\$ 0

### Comments:

# FY2024 Q3 Strategic Partnership Grant Report

**April 1 - June 30, 2024**

## Summary (1500 characters)

R2S wrapped up the school year with another 13 community and family reading events and workshops, where we engaged more than 800 families in literacy activities and distributed another 1,200+ culturally-responsive books.

From Kindergarten Enrollment at Johnston Elementary to Buncombe Partnership for Children's KidsFest to the Buncombe County Libraries Summer Fest, AmeriHealth Caritas' Community Baby Shower, Children's First Community Care Day, May Week Family Reading Workshop with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and more . . . there was no shortage of Positive Experiences Around Reading in Asheville and Buncombe County!

In addition, multiple guest readers from R2S, including Storytime Specialist Ms. Ann, led 3 - 5-year-old students in different Community Action Opportunities classrooms through vibrant high-impact read-alouds and extension activities each week in Q4.

R2S distributed early literacy resources to local families, including indestructible books for infants and toddlers, curated comprehension guides, Spring Break and PreK Graduation Book Bundles, monthly family reading newsletters, board books, developmental milestones references, and more! We published blog articles with book recommendations and created free downloadable printables with summer reading activities for families with PreK and elementary students.

Check out our In-Depth Narrative supplement for more information!

## In-Depth Narrative

### Book & Resource Distribution

R2S distributed 1,283 children's books in Q4, prioritizing Black main characters, authors, and illustrators. Books are shared with families in a variety of ways, including at on-site family reading and community events, through Book Bundles, and via community partners.

Additional resources distributed with books include Developmental Milestones for Children 0-5 (translated into Spanish with the help of a local Head Start parent), comprehension guides (general version \*and\* versions customized to a bundle-specific book), a directory of free

reading apps, and additional comprehensive resources tailored to meet the needs of students in afterschool programs, summer camps, early childhood education, and ACS/BCS schools.

To further engage families, R2S distributed a monthly newsletter filled with age-appropriate literacy activities, ensuring that learning extends beyond the classroom. For our youngest learners, we provided indestructible books for infants and toddlers.

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 also distributed multiple evidence-based literacy resources to partners through training events and workshops for Christine W. Avery Learning Center, Youth Transformed for Life (YTL), Chosen PODS After-School and Summer Camp, AmeriHealth Caritas' Community Baby Shower, Verner's Mobile Classroom, and May Week with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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## 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.

During another read-aloud, Ms. Ann conducted dialogic reading sessions for 3-5 year-olds in two classrooms. During these sessions, children sang songs, explored the letter and sound of "H," and learned the word "healthy." They also viewed large-format photos of children engaging in healthy activities, participated in the "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" song, and discussed maintaining a healthy mood. The sessions concluded with a reading of "Pete the Cat: and his Groovy Sunglasses."

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## Community & Family Reading Events

R2S hosted and participated in 13 community/family events and literacy workshops in Q4, reaching 800 families and community members with literacy resources and activities plus more information about getting involved with tutoring.

Events included:

1. **Hood Huggers Spring Fling** - R2S joined hundreds of families at the annual Spring Fling at the Peace Gardens in the historically Black Burton St. neighborhood. Our staff spoke with families about our volunteer program, distributed culturally-relevant books, and shared more information about R2S and how to support literacy in our community.
2. **Johnston Stem Night** - R2S provided children and families with large-form Legos to build letters, materials that are also utilized in the JES STEAM garden, and distributed books to attendees. The event saw participation from 63 families and 35 students, with R2S distributing a total of 56 books.
3. **Chosen PODS Spring Break Event** - R2S collaborated with Chosen Pod to host a Spring Break Fun event, featuring bounce houses, delicious food from DreadLife Kitchen, engaging games, lively music, and a mobile zoo. Kona Ice was also available for a refreshing treat. Additionally, we distributed Spring Break Book Bundle kits, complete with activities for children and families to enjoy together at home.
4. **Johnston Elementary School (JES) Kinder Enrollment** - R2S Elementary Literacy Director joined JES' Kindergarten Enrollment Day along with Co-ED Ashley 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.



5. **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!
6. **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.
7. **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!
8. **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!
9. **Children's First Community Care Day** - R2S partnered with Children's First to celebrate the end of the school after-school program before the summer session begins. During the event, we distributed books and organized engaging literacy games, including leapfrog and a black author ring toss. Prizes were awarded, and we also took the opportunity to discuss our program and its benefits with children and families.
10. **Community Baby Shower** - R2S collaborated with AmeriHealth to celebrate expectant mothers with a special event where they enjoyed delicious food, received thoughtful gifts, and accessed valuable resources and essential items for their newborns. During the event, R2S distributed 17 board books and 30 indestructible books to families and children, supporting early literacy from the very beginning.
11. **May Week with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc** - R2S provided caretakers with effective strategies to help children develop and strengthen their literacy skills. R2S distributed age-appropriate materials to support daily reading practices, along with books and comprehensive guides to enhance general comprehension.
12. **Reynolds Middle Block Party** - R2S staff joined the United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County and engaged with families to discuss our volunteer program, distribute culturally relevant books, and provide information and resources about R2S.
13. **Chosen PODS End of School Bash** - We celebrated the last day of school with 100 students at Chosen PODS after-school - it was a festive event featuring Kona Ice, a foam machine, and a delightful culinary experience provided by Cooking with Comedy.