

# FY2023 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Read to Succeed	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Community Powered Literacy / Family Engagement and Kindergarten Readiness	
<b>Reporting Quarter:</b> (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023)

## 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>Read to Succeed wrapped up July providing direct literacy instruction to 7+ PreK/Kindergarten students attending Project Lighten Up Summer Camp at Rock Hill Missionary Baptist in the historically Black community of Shiloh.</p> <p>In August, R2S staff interviewed multiple high-quality candidates for the position of Early Literacy Director at R2S and offered the position late that month to Maggie Fox, who started full-time on Sept. 6th.</p> <p>Diving right into partnerships, Fox met with leadership at the YWCA (~85 children 0 - 5) and CWA (~65 children 0 - 5) and began in-class observations and support with teachers/assistants in their toddler and PreK classrooms, leading read-alouds with students, designing literacy centers, building relationships with students, teachers, and families, and more.</p> <p>R2S designed and shared a Family Reading Newsletter in September with both partners featuring a children's book recommendation, tips for selecting books, and a hands-on literacy activity for kids to complete. We also began planning for participation at the CWA Fall Festival in Oct. and to co-host Fall Into Reading Night with families at the YWCA in Oct.</p> <p>R2S connected with Buncombe Partnership for Children, participating in their Sept. Community Playdate by sharing culturally-responsive books with families and hosting a make-your-own-bookmark and reading carnival game booths.</p> <p>Fox additionally created six comprehension guides for different culturally-responsive PreK books that UNCA and Asheville City Schools will use as part of their home library initiative with families this fall.</p>
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<b>Quarter 2</b>	<p>Read to Succeed's Early Literacy Director Maggie Fox settled into a consistent schedule of in-class support for our early childhood partners at the YWCA and Christine Avery Learning Center (CWA) in Q2.</p> <p>In addition to providing coaching, curricula, and literacy resources to teachers, Fox also spent three hours/week with each partner in the classroom designing and leading literacy centers, conducting live read-alouds with students, creating extension activities using the phonics curriculum from ACS/BCS, and more.</p> <p>R2S also participated in three significant family reading events during this quarter, including the CWA Fall Festival, YWCA's Fall Into Reading Night, and the first annual Community Holiday Extravaganza. Hundreds of families attended and participated in these community events, where R2S distributed curated literacy kits with culturally-responsive books and family reading resources.</p> <p>Fox continued to design, create, and distribute monthly family reading newsletters to early childhood partners featuring book recommendations and PreK literacy activities, plus all children attending both partner centers received a Winter Break Book Bundle from R2S in December.</p> <p>Strategic planning meetings with both partners have set the stage for 2023, where new screeners and assessments will be completed to identify specific students for one-to-one and small group literacy support, and new training opportunities with partner staff and volunteers will happen.</p>
<b>Quarter 3</b>	<p>Early childhood support continued in Q3 with partners YWCA and Christine Avery Learning Center through weekly in-class small group reading instruction, student assessments, coaching, and resource distribution. R2S Early Literacy Director Maggie Fox zeroed in on support for 36 NC PreK students across both centers, identifying growth areas in phonemic, syllable, and word awareness, incorporating culturally-responsive literacy practices and materials into classrooms, and sharing monthly family reading newsletters with all families.</p> <p>R2S expanded early childhood support to Community Action Opportunities, who runs Headstart and PreK classrooms across Asheville and Buncombe County. 10 early childhood educators from the Lonnie D. Burton Center (serving 42 students, 74% of whom identify as Black) attended a February training on phonemic awareness with R2S and workshopped using the Heggerty Early PreK phonemic awareness curriculum (all classes received a manual!).</p> <p>R2S continued partnering with Buncombe Partnership for Children, supporting two "Ready for Kindergarten" events and training 15 area early childhood educators on how to infuse culturally-responsive literacy into play-based learning (all trainees left with classroom resource kits!). Training and classroom support feedback have been resoundingly positive, and 100% of trainees recommend R2S for future workshops.</p>

<b>Quarter 4</b>	<p>Q4 wrapped up with continued in-class instruction with partners, spring reading events, PreK graduation celebrations, and planning for summer literacy support. In addition to serving 35+ students weekly through the beginning of May at YWCA and CWA, R2S early literacy staff also designed and developed monthly family reading newsletters, 50+ PreK graduation literacy kits, and highly shareable blog articles focused on literacy-centered activities and ideas for PreK families.</p> <p>More than 100 children and adults attended the Spring Into Reading and PreK Graduation events at YWCA and Lonnie D. Burton Center, where R2S contributed free culturally-responsive children's books, PreK reading games and activities, and a free meal and reading resources. On the training front, R2S staff led trainings for staff at YWCA's Empowerment Child Care Program and Chosen PODS Summer Camp, where rising kindergartners will attend through August 2023. R2S Early Literacy Director Maggie Fox transitioned in June from her role with R2S to a new position at Buncombe Partnership for Children.</p>
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## Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Number of community partners' staff (and volunteers) engaged through kindergarten-readiness trainings	50	0	0	32	29	61
Number of community partners' staff training sessions conducted	6	0	0	3	3	6
Number of family kits provided	125	0	165	0	118	283
Number of classroom resource kits provided	10	0	2	26	8	36
Number of family events/activities hosted/co-hosted/supported with community partners	8	2	4	7	5	18

### Comments:

Family events/activities in Q4 including Spring Into Reading Family Night at YWCA and PreK graduations at CWA and Lonnie D. Burton Center + film screenings of The Right to Read and the Child Care for NC rally. Trainings include a staff play-based literacy workshop with YWCA and summer literacy workshop at Chosen PODS.

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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	\$ 41,000	\$ 8,301	\$ 12,500	\$ 13,000	\$ 7,199	\$ -
Travel/Training	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,005	\$ 130	\$ 65
Technology						\$ -
Curriculum/Assessments	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 961	\$ 39	\$ -
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation						\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 9,131	\$ 221	\$ 1,191	\$ 6,408	\$ 1,311	\$ 0
Building Maintenance/Repair						\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 2,000	\$ 93	\$ 145	\$ 366	\$ 1,107	\$ 289
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,						\$ -
Other (please list)						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ 54,331	\$ 8,615	\$ 13,836	\$ 21,740	\$ 9,786	\$ 355

**Comments:**

# Q4 Early Childhood Grant Report Copy

April 1 - June 30, 2023

## Summary

Q4 wrapped up with continued in-class instruction with partners, spring reading events, PreK graduation celebrations, and planning for summer literacy support. In addition to serving 35+ students weekly through the beginning of May at YWCA and CWA, R2S early literacy staff also designed and developed monthly family reading newsletters, 50+ PreK graduation literacy kits, and highly shareable blog articles focused on literacy-centered activities and ideas for PreK families.

More than 100 children and adults attended the Spring Into Reading and PreK Graduation events at YWCA and Lonnie D. Burton Center, where R2S contributed free culturally-responsive children's books, PreK reading games and activities, and a free meal and reading resources. On the training front, R2S staff led trainings for staff at YWCA's Empowerment Child Care Program and Chosen PODS Summer Camp, where rising kindergartners will attend through August 2023. R2S Early Literacy Director Maggie Fox transitioned in June from her role with R2S to a new position at Buncombe Partnership for Children.

## In-Depth Narrative

### **YWCA of Asheville (~100 children, 0 - 5 years old)**

- Through early May, Early Literacy Director Maggie Fox, Read to Succeed's Early Literacy Director, conducted an hour of in-class support each week in the YWCA NC Pre-K classroom (18 students). Fox led Small-Group Reading Instruction to allow children to engage in comprehension strategies, fluency practice, and phonological awareness activities to develop Foundational Reading Skills. We collaborated with Pre-K teachers on structuring reading and writing activities during their literacy block and worked on alphabetic awareness, phonological awareness, and letter-sound correspondence.
- Family reading newsletters
  - In Q4, we designed, created, and distributed monthly newsletters to our Early Childhood partners. Newsletters feature a culturally-responsive children's book recommendation, early literacy tips, and a hands-on reading/writing activity for

students to complete. Our “Book of the Month” is made accessible as a QR code that links to a live read-aloud online.

- Family Reading Event (April 12, 2023)
  - R2S co-hosted “Spring Into Reading” Family Night at YWCA
    - In addition to providing four reading-based activities and games for kids, including an uppercase/lowercase egg carton letter match, R2S also shared curated literacy kits with families. Kits featured a brand new copy of *M Is for Melanin* by Tiffany Rose and a corresponding comprehension guide and extension activity. Local Black-owned business Daddy D’s On Wheels provided free dinner for all attendees and Ann Davis from Books Alive! lead multiple live read-alouds with students.
    - 75+ people attended, including 50 families
- Empowerment Child Care Support
  - Early Literacy Director Maggie Fox observed staff and students in the ECC program and met with director Alesia Summey to talk about support.
  - Co-Executive Director Jacque Hall led a training on play-based literacy with ECC staff in early June, workshopping ways for teachers to practice early phonemic awareness and letter naming/recognition skills with students attending the program.
- At the end of the year, R2S delivered 40+ literacy kits for graduating PreK students featuring *King of Kindergarten* and *Queen of Kindergarten* with accompanying crafts, comprehension guides, and family reading app guides.

### **Christine Avery Learning Center (CWA) (~ 65 children, 0 - 5 years)**

- Through early May, Read to Succeed’s Early Literacy Director Maggie Fox conducted an hour of in-class support each week in the NC Pre-K classroom (18 students). Fox led small group letter name and letter sound recognition activities. We created Sensory literacy activities and Literacy Infused Play.
- Fox attended CWA PreK graduation in June and shared curated literacy kits with *M Is For Melanin* by Tiffany Rose and accompanying activities and family reading resources.
- In Q4, we designed, created, and distributed monthly newsletters to our Early Childhood partners. Newsletters feature a culturally-responsive children’s book recommendation, early literacy tips, and a hands-on reading/writing activity for students to complete. Our “Book of the Month” is made accessible as a QR code that links to a live read-aloud online.
- R2S delivered classroom kits of Wilson/Fundations phonics materials and trade books requested by teachers for their classroom literacy centers and read-aloud activities.
- R2S Co-ED Jacque Hall and Early Literacy Director Maggie Fox met with CWA leadership to discuss summer programming support and the upcoming 2023-2024 year

### **Community Action Opportunities**

- R2S leadership met with CAO Education Manager Crystal McKinney to discuss summer support opportunities for the Lonnie D. Burton Center
- R2S team members Jess and Toshia set up games and a book giveaway at the Lonnie D. Burton PreK Graduation in early June, engaging families and sharing free reading resources

### **Other**

- R2S Co-ED Jess McLean and Elementary Literacy Director Olivia Fingold plus R2S board members attended Child Care for NC Rally on 4/20, sharing culturally-responsive books, games and hosting local author and Asheville native Jorge Redmond in a read-aloud for families
- R2S Early Literacy Director Maggie and Elem Lit Director Olivia attended YWCA's Annual Persimmon Luncheon
- R2S posted two blog articles that were shared in newsletters and on social media featuring actionable hints, tips, and tricks for PreK families, including children's book recommendations and literacy activities for Mental Health Awareness Month, and fun ways to celebrate reading during National Literacy Month.
- R2S conducted a three-day workshop for 24+ staff at Chosen PODS Summer Camp, who will serve 6 rising Kindergarten students from June - August 2023.
- R2S co-presented screenings of The Right to Read documentary about the literacy crisis twice in April at UNCA in partnership with the UNCA Dept. of Education and Literacy Together.

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