

# 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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	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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**Quarter 2**

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.

<b>Quarter 3</b>	<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>
<b>Quarter 4</b>	

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## Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				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	37		159
# of community partners' staff/volunteer/intern training sessions conducted	8	0	2	3		5
# of evidence-based literacy games, activities, and centers designed, developed, and shared with early childhood partners	50	1	6	34		41

**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	\$ 45,000	\$ 3,740.00	\$ 8,653.34	\$ 7,654.86		\$ 24,952
Travel/Training	\$ 800		\$ 80.00	\$ 665.46		\$ 55
Technology	\$ 1,000		\$ 400.00	\$ 600.00		\$ -
Curriculum/Assessments	\$ 1,000		\$ 566.25			\$ 434
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation	\$ 500		\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00		\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 6,000	\$ 679.00	\$ 1,354.76	\$ 3,083.36		\$ 883
Building Maintenance/Repair						\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 1,500	\$ 827.00	\$ 673.00			\$ -
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,	\$ 5,500	\$ 527.00	\$ -	\$ 4,973.50		\$ (1)
Other - Culturally Responsive books	\$ 5,000		\$ 678.00	\$ 4,322.00		\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 66,300</b>	<b>\$ 5,773</b>	<b>\$ 12,705</b>	<b>\$ 21,499</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 26,322</b>

**Comments:**

# FY2024 Q3 Early Childhood Grant Report

Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2024

## Summary (1500 characters)

Read 2 Succeed (R2S) continued critical early childhood work in Q3 with literacy-focused read-alouds, trainings, family events, and book and resource distribution.

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.

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.

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).

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.

## In-Depth Narrative

### Training

- 1) Christine W. Avery Learning Center Phonological Awareness Training: 22 early childhood educators at CWA joined R2S for an interactive training Amerihealth Caritas location all about teaching phonological awareness in PreK.

Allen conducted a presentation for curriculum support with Tonisha Chislom, CWA's Curriculum Specialist. Allen presented on the importance of phonological awareness in reading development, along with practical ways instructors can build this skill into their

day. Instructors engaged in rich discussion around early articulation interventions, and 12 instructors signed up for R2S staff to print, laminate, and help set up Sound Wall cards for their classroom Sound Walls. The day began with cheering and laughter with ice breakers and included hands on practice with Heggerty (phonemic awareness curriculum) and phonological awareness games for instructors to bring back to their classroom. R2S also demonstrated best practices for read-alouds, and the time culminated with catered lunch from Moe's Southwest and Q&A.

With the support of R2S Duke NC Literacy Corps member, Deniese Yvelverton, lunch was set up and all educators left with handouts on sound formation, Heggerty manuals, *M is for Melanin*, and phonological awareness games.

"Thank you so much for coming out and doing the training with our staff. A lot of them spoke on takeaways and ideas that they plan to implement in their classroom. They were also excited about the resources you gifted them, it was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your time."

- Tonisha Chislom, Curriculum Specialist, Christine W. Avery Learning Center

- 2) **Observations & Workshopping with Ms. Ann:** R2S leadership observed Storytime Specialist and Books Alive! Reader Ms. Ann sharing stories and activities at Pisgah View Headstart and Hillcrest Headstart. A post-reading debrief resulted in workshopping content ideas around future books and activities to share with students that dive into early literacy skills, including rhyme, oral language/vocabulary development, and phonemic awareness.
- 3) **R2S New Tutor Training:** 40 community members joined R2S for "new tutor training" in January - attendees included new volunteer reading tutors, contracted R2S reading instructors, R2S board members, representatives from Open Doors Asheville, and young adults from the Hood Huggers program. Training occurred 1.5 - 2 hours/session, once a week for three weeks on Zoom. Trainees not only go on to become elementary tutors, but some opt into our early childhood volunteer program to serve in PreK classrooms and/or as guest readers for our early childhood partners.

## Instructional Hours Served

### Guest Readers

R2S formally welcomed Ms. Ann Davis of Books Alive! to the team as a part-time Storytime Specialist. Adding Ms. Ann to the staff allows us to offer more consistent support for regular read-alouds with partners and source supplies and materials Ms. Ann uses in PreK programming with R2S partners.

After a brief hiatus due to challenging weather in January and syncing schedules in February, R2S restarted the weekly guest reader program in March of Q3 in partnership with CAO. Ms. Ann and R2S' new Elementary Literacy Director visited with 3 - 5 year old students at two CAO centers in March to lead songs, interactive read-alouds, and extension activities. Center locations for March visits include two of CAO's most racially diverse - Hillcrest and Pisgah View Apartments.

R2S read-alouds typically involve 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 works with staff to lead students through a related extension activity or craft to "extend" their experience with the text.

We added 4 read-aloud kits to the Resource Library in Q3 - 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 continued contracting Early Childhood specialist and former Kindergarten teacher Julianne Sticklely to support content and literacy kit creation during Q3. She also generated content for the R2S website and blog, including an evergreen article featuring ABC Books Featuring Black & Brown Characters and Celebrating All Bodies that was shared in the R2S eNewsletter and on social media:

<https://www.r2sasheville.org/blog1/13-abc-books-featuring-black-and-brown-characters-celebrating-all-bodies>

## Volunteers

R2S early childhood volunteers continued their weekly support with local CAO classrooms at Lonnie D. Burton and Hillcrest, serving 36.5 total hours January through March with students 3 - 5 years old. Volunteers use their Science of Reading training and the R2S Resource Library as they give 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.

## 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 Q3.

- **Buncombe Partnership for Children (BPFC) Ready for Kindergarten Event** - R2S joined BPFC and other community groups at the West Asheville library event to speak about resources and opportunities for families of rising kindergarteners and distributed free culturally-responsive and age-appropriate books.



- **Asheville City Schools (ACS) Magnet Night** - R2S team members shared new books, literacy resources, and spoke with families (primarily parents and caregivers with rising kindergartners) attending Asheville City Schools about early reading, best practices for selecting books, tips for reading at home, free reading apps, and more.
- **Black Family Wellness Expo** - The LINKS hosted their annual wellness expo at the Linwood Crump Center in Shiloh in March. R2S brought out culturally-responsive books, a bookmark making station, plus family reading resources for attendees.
- **Asheville Celebrates Black Children's Book Week** - more than 20 families joined at the Pisgah View Apartments Community Center to hear visiting children's book author Dantavius Washington share his book with children. R2S provided free dinner from Blessed Soul Food, popcorn, dessert, literacy games, face painting, and music - Books Alive with Ms. Ann joined in on the fun, and UNCA athletes volunteered to staff different stations. All families left with a signed copy of Washington's book along with a custom comprehension guide and a free reading apps guide from R2S.

## Evidence Based Literacy Games and Activities and Book Distribution

More than 300 Spring Break Bundles went out to early childhood students in March through R2S partners CWA, YWCA, and four Community Action Opportunities sites. Spring Break Book Bundles featured a Black-centered board book plus a copy of *B Is For Breathe* by Dr. Melissa Boyd with a custom comprehension guide, small toy, and family reading newsletter.

R2S family reading newsletters go out monthly to six early childhood partners - they feature 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.

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.