

# Fall in Love with READING



*From local officials to high school volunteers,  
this community knows how to rally  
when it comes to reading!*

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On October 13, several families and community organizations gathered at the College of Central Florida's Learning Lab School to celebrate the love of literacy. CF's Teacher Education and the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County presented this 2nd annual event in partnership with Read Aloud 15 Minutes.

Children, hand in hand with their moms and dads, entered a story book village created by compassionate community partners and CF students who worked tirelessly to bring books to life. Vendors provided

educational activities to engage guests and promote the fun and fascination of learning.

This free event provided food trucks, activities, face painting with Tonya, giveaways, story time with the Ocala Public Library and special appearance by a local fire truck. Key Club students volunteered from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. helping to make this event a true success for hundreds of guests.

Brand new children's books were given to each child as they entered the event, provided by the Early Learning Coalition. †

## Why is reading 15 minutes a day so important?

According to renaissance.com, "15 minutes seems to be the 'magic number' at which students start seeing substantial positive gains in reading achievement."

Studies show students need to spend at least 15 minutes per day reading in order to advance in learning and performance. Any time spent reading under 15 minutes yields low levels of growth - including 14 minutes! However, that one extra minute spent reading showed higher test scores and gains - higher than the national average. "The consistent connection between time spent reading per day and reading growth cannot be ignored," according to Renaissance.

Furthermore, these studies prove a student's level of reading is more highly correlated with the time they spend reading each day than it is with their gender, family dynamics, socioeconomic status and time spent doing homework. "In fact, students with the lowest socioeconomic background but high reading engagement scored better than students with the highest socioeconomic background but low reading engagement," according to Renaissance.

Fifteen minutes can shape a child's future and events such as Fall in Love with Reading help promote this state of learning. Do you have 15 minutes to give your child today? †



## Need some great book ideas?

*Family Times Magazine* readers weigh in on some of the best books for children who are learning to read!

### Pre-school

**LITTLE BLUE TRUCK**  
by Alice Schertle

**SIS FOR SUNSHINE**  
by Carol Crane

**I STINK**  
by Kate and Jim McMullen

**HOW DO DINOSAURS  
SAY GOOD NIGHT?**  
by Jane Yolen

**MOBY SHINOBI SERIES**  
by Luke Flowers

**DON'T LET PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS**  
by Mo Willems

**ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE SERIES**  
by Mo Willems

### Elementary

**KITTY KAT WANTS STRIPES**  
by Elka Peterson

**THE LITTLE GRUMPY CAT  
THAT WOULD**  
by Golden Books

**WHAT! CRIED GRANNY**  
by Kate Lum

**NARWHAL AND JELLY BOOKS**  
by Ben Clanton

**MY FRIEND HAS DOWN SYNDROME**  
by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos

**PETE THE CAT BOOKS**  
by Eric Litwin