



## ***SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS***

Affiliated with National Volunteer Outreach Network, Country Women's Council, U.S.A.,  
Associated Country Women of the World and in partnership with Clemson University Cooperative  
Extension Service

SCFCL WEBSITE: <http://clemson.edu/fyd/fcl.htm>

### **Leader Training Guide**

#### **Encouraging Literacy by Building Better Readers**

##### **Objectives:**

To increase awareness of how adequate reading ability affects a person's quality of life.  
To explore techniques FCL volunteers can use to help youngsters improve their reading skills.

##### **Lesson Overview/Introduction:**

In this lesson we will talk about how good reading skills improve the quality of life for individuals in our society. We will also take a short quiz relating to reading skills and consider ways that we as parents, family members, and friends can encourage youngsters to become better readers.

##### **Teaching the Lesson:**

Begin by asking participants, "How many of read some written word, sentence or other material before coming to today's meeting or in the last 24 hours? How would your life be different if you could not have read that material?"

*(Pause for brief responses)*

For most of us adults, the ability to read is such an integral part of our life that we take it for granted. Yet, none of us was born knowing how to read. Some youngsters seem to learn to read easily and without a lot of effort. Others have difficulty learning to read and have to work harder at developing reading skills.

Today we will explore some ways that we as FCL volunteers and family members can encourage the development of this important skill – even if we do not have children of our own.

First, we will take a short quiz to see how knowledgeable we are about reading.

*(Pass out quiz handouts. When participants complete quiz, go over answers using Leader's Answer Sheet as guide and sharing ideas.)*

##### **Lesson Summary:**

There are 8760 hours in a year. K-5 and elementary students are typically in school about 1200 hours per year. They need to sleep about 4000 hours per year. That means that parents, family and community members are responsible for the child's learning that takes place in the other

approximately 3500 hours per year. Are we, as family and community members, using that time to encourage children to develop life skills and gain knowledge, especially through reading?

Listed below are some ways family members and FCL volunteers can encourage reading.

- Read to your young family members and encourage them to read
- Volunteer to read to or with students in local day cares, early childhood programs, and/or group homes.
- Share books and appropriate magazines with others in your community.
- Have your club start a "Book Shelf" in places such as doctor's offices, local clinics, DSS or DHEC facilities where children are often present – even the local laundry mat.
- Encourage older youth and adults with inadequate reading skills to seek help by contacting the local school district office or local Literacy Council to see what help is available.

*(Club members may have other suggestions.)*

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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**Lesson Reviewed by:** Lou J. Robinson, SCFCL Advisor

Sources/References:

"Reading is Fundamental" (Internet)

Chester County Schools, Director of Elementary Education

"Learning and Reading Partners" March, 2004

CBS Evening News, May 28, 2010

(Quiz Handout)

### How to Grow Good Readers – or Not!

1. Reading to a child is a good way to help that child develop an interest in reading.  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
2. It is best to begin reading to a child when she/he starts school.  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
3. Reading to a child increases the child's knowledge and understanding of the world around him.  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
4. Reading to a child does not increase his/her vocabulary.  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
5. When reading to a child, the adult reader should discourage questions and comments by the child.  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
6. As you read to a child, it is okay to ask the child, "What do you think will happen next?"  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
7. Keeping books and other age appropriate reading materials in the home helps motivate a child to read.  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
8. The high school dropout rate in the United States is declining.  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
9. Families can do which of the following things to help their children become lifelong readers.  
(Put a check before each statement that is an encouragement.)  
  
 Read aloud to the child/children  
 Set aside a regular time each day for family reading  
 Encourage children to watch television for 3 to 4 hours daily  
 Set a good example; let the children see you, the adult, reading.

*(Leader's Guide)*

Answers to Quiz: **How to Grow Good Readers – or Not!**

1. True – Reading to a child is one of the best things you can do to develop interest in reading. It helps develop listening skills and helps the child relate the sound of the word to the written word.
2. False – It is better to begin reading to children when they are quite young. Very young children love books with large pictures and simple sentences.
3. True – Children enjoy the attention of an adult and easily learn from everything that adult says, reads, and does.
4. False – Children learn new words by hearing them used, so reading to children is a good way to improve their vocabulary.
5. False – Comments and questions by the child keeps him/her engaged and helps the child develop thinking skills.
6. True – Asking the child to predict what happens next is another way to encourage the development of thinking skills. It helps the child to learn that actions have consequences. For example: If you go out in the rain without an umbrella, you will get wet.
7. True – Children explore the world around them. Those children who have appropriate magazines and books available are more likely to become good readers.
8. False – Thirty years ago the United States led the world in high school graduation. Today, We rank 18<sup>th</sup> among industrial nations. While this statistic does not address the role poor reading skills play in causing school drop outs; many studies indicate that poor reading skills are a definite risk factor in predicting who will drop out of school.
9. All of the practices except excessive TV watching help children become lifelong readers.

