

Parent Literacy Together: A Multi-Generational Approach to Learning



Insights from the Parent Literacy Forum



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McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic

Purpose



- Give an overview of the **Parent Literacy Together** model for **multi-generational learning**.
- Learn how **Parent Literacy Together** **integrates adult learning** into family literacy activities.
- Share **sample lessons** and **activities**.
- Invite others to **join the process**.



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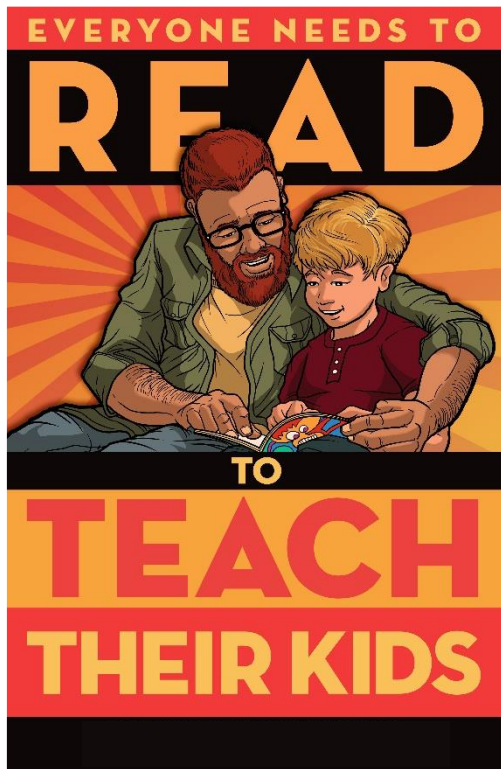


McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic

History

- 2012** Kalamazoo Literacy Council (KLC) in collaboration with the Adult Education and Training Program at Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan launched the **Read and Seed** program as its first Parent Literacy initiative.
- 2018** Representatives of Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) visited the **ASPIRE** program in Austin, Texas to determine if its 2Gen model could be replicated in Kalamazoo. **ASPIRE** (Achieving Success through Parental Involvement, Reading, and Education) breaks the cycles of illiteracy and poverty by providing comprehensive, integrated literacy services for the entire family.
- 2020** Dr. Elizabeth Isidro facilitated the first **Parent Literacy Forum** to develop multi-generational learning strategies with KLC and Goodwill. **Parent Literacy Together** was launched to engage parents studying with the KLC and Goodwill and their children with multi-generational strategies.
- 2021** KLC and Goodwill received a grant from SPK to support Parent Literacy Together. The **Little Scholars Child Development Center** was launched to provide free childcare for children 0-4 of parents studying with the KLC and Goodwill. Monthly **Family Literacy Days** began in the **Read and Seed Community Garden**.

Why focus on parents as adult learners?



- According to the National Institutes of Health, the **most important factor** in a child's academic success is the reading level of his or her caregivers.
- In today's global economy it is important that everyone **know how to read** to help their children succeed in school.
- To **redeem The Kalamazoo Promise**, a child must know how to read. The parent is that child's first teacher.

72%

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest literacy level.

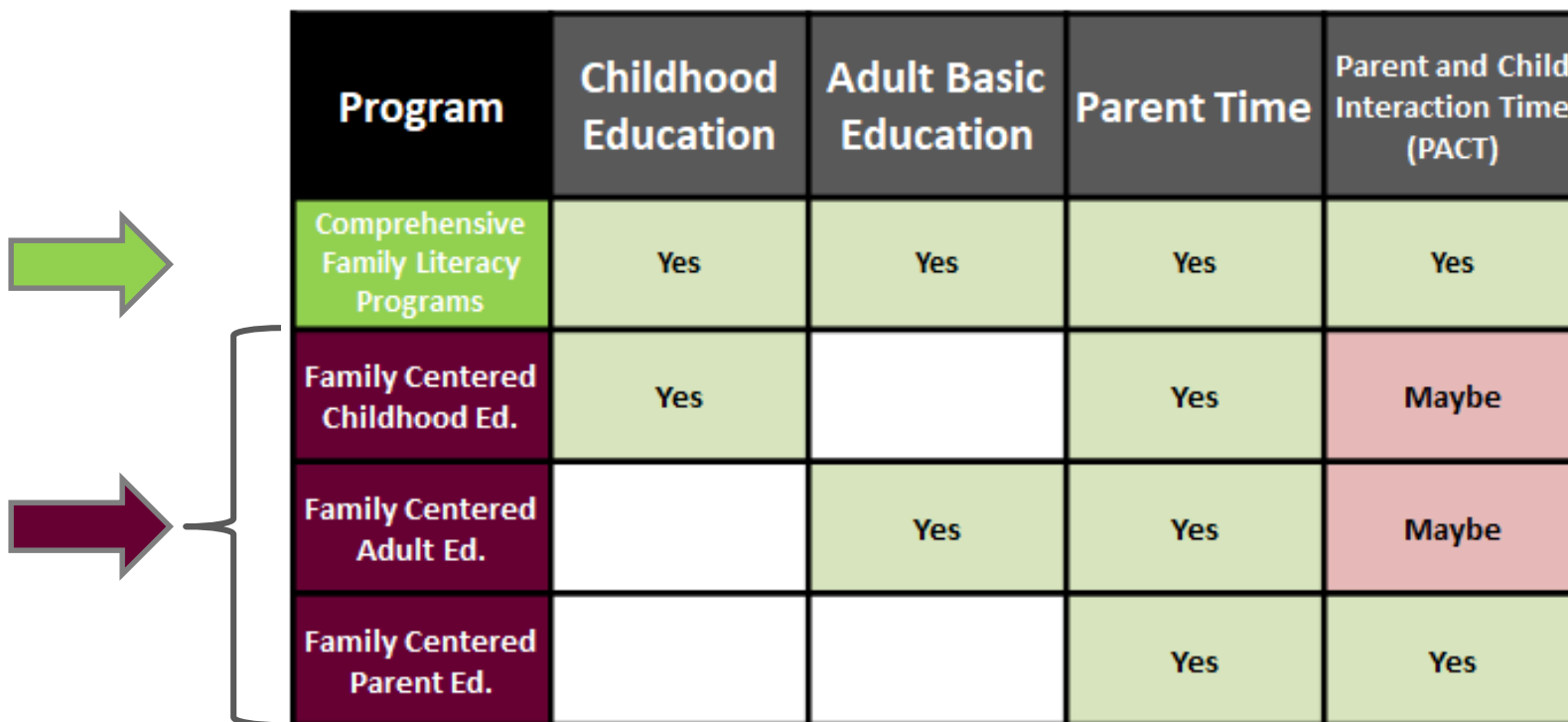
~ National Bureau of Economic Research

Comprehensive Family Literacy Programs

provide intensive services that integrate the following four components:

Family-Centered (or Family-Focused) Family Literacy Programs

provide services focused on **two or more** of the four components:



Program	Childhood Education	Adult Basic Education	Parent Time	Parent and Child Interaction Time (PACT)
Comprehensive Family Literacy Programs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Family Centered Childhood Ed.	Yes		Yes	Maybe
Family Centered Adult Ed.		Yes	Yes	Maybe
Family Centered Parent Ed.			Yes	Yes

Multi-Generational Learning: Two-Gen

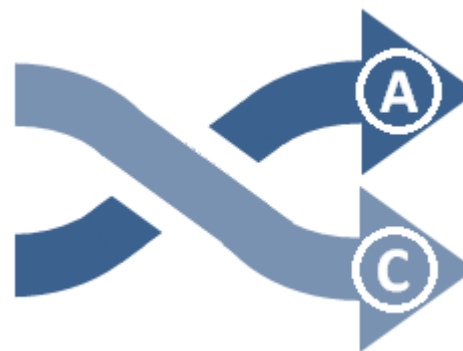
a strategy that supports both **adults and children simultaneously**. It provides families with opportunities to further their education, build social capital, maintain their physical and mental health, and increase economic well-being and overall stability.

Parallel Curriculum



Program separately provides instruction for both generations with **individual** learning outcomes.

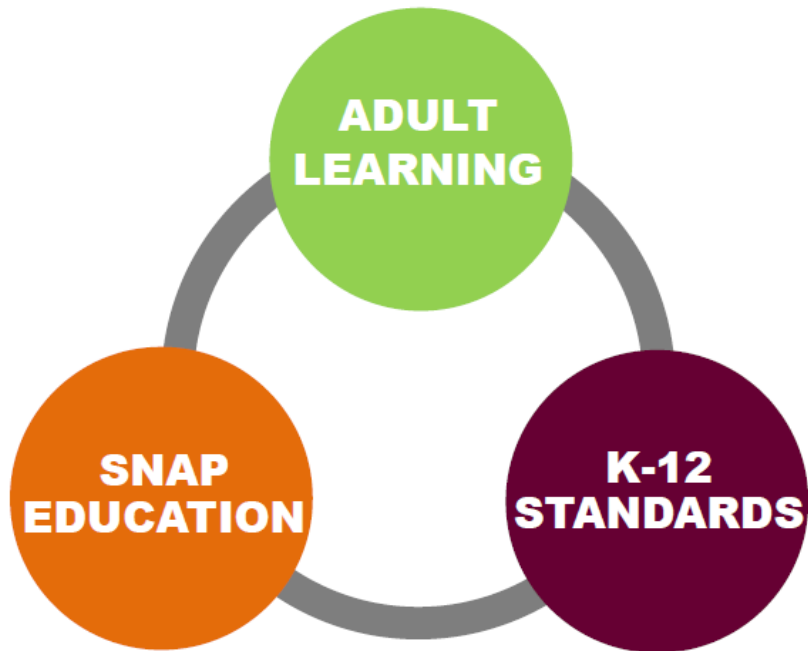
Integrated Curriculum



Program provides instruction for both generations with **individual** and **common** learning outcomes.

Curriculum Crosswalk

Provides correlation of standards across multiple learning benchmarks.



A curriculum is being developed to crosswalk all three areas of learning.

Lessons and activities are multi-generational, impacting parents and children.

Parent Literacy Together!



Description: Parent Literacy Together is a Multi-Generational Learning program that helps parents become more engaged in their children's learning. Sessions are led by trained family literacy experts and include activities that will empower parents to become more confident "first teachers" of their children.

Comprehensive
Family Literacy

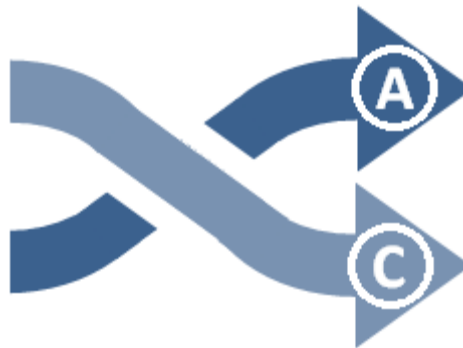
Childhood
Education

Adult Basic
Education

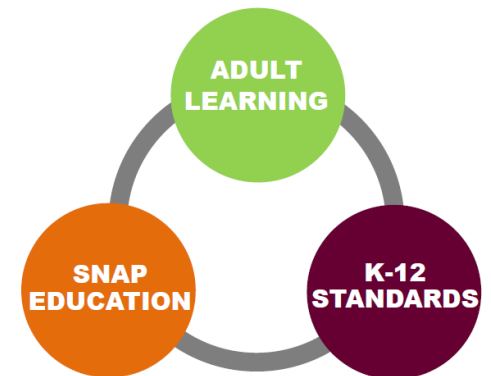
Parent
Time

PACT

Integrated Curriculum



Cross-Walked
Standards



Parent Literacy Together Framework

Parent Literacy Together

- Parent Literacy
- Parent Education
- Health Literacy
- Financial Literacy
- Digital Literacy
- English as a Second Language

Read and Seed

- Health Literacy
- Parent Literacy

Parent Coalition

- Parent Education
- Parent Literacy

Digital Literacy

- Digital Literacy
- Parent Literacy

ESL

- English as a Second Language
- Parent Literacy

Easy Money

- Financial Literacy
- Parent Literacy



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Parent Literacy Together



Parent Literacy Together
Partners:

Learn while your
child learns!

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Parent Literacy Together



Parent Literacy Together is a multi-generational learning program that will help you become more engaged in your children's learning while you improve your education.

Parents who participate:

- Get connected to parents and other resources that helps them be more confident “first teachers” of their children.
- Receive age-appropriate books, learning activities, and other supplies to help them create fun learning experiences with their children.
- Invitations to weekly Parent Literacy Together sessions and monthly Family Literacy events.



Parent Literacy Together

Goal: To reach 100% of the parents who are studying with the KLC and Goodwill and to provide them with Parent Literacy activities and support.

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Adult Learner Outcomes

Measureable Skills Gains
Workforce Readiness
Parenting Confidence



Child Learner Outcomes

Kindergarten Readiness
Read by Grade Three
Social Emotional Growth

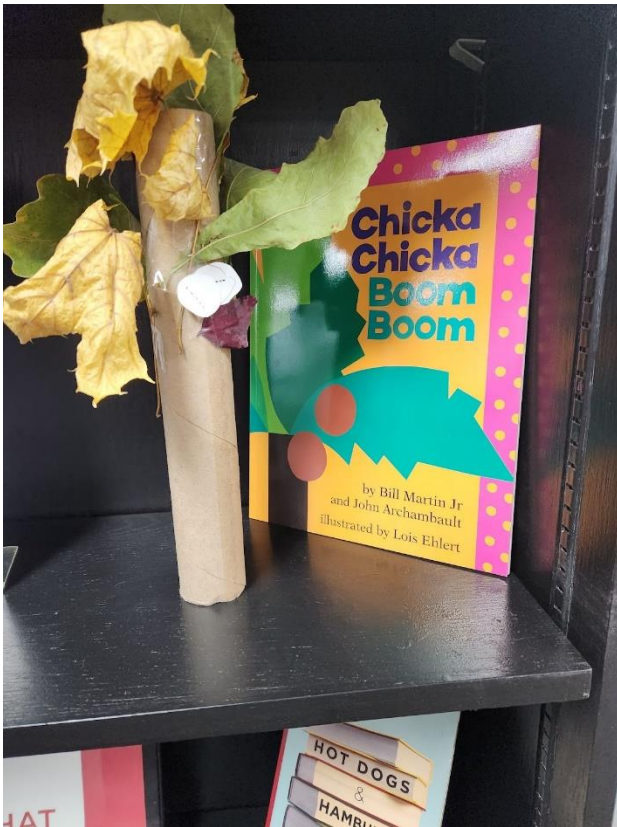
Family Learning Outcomes

Culture of Learning at Home
Health Literacy Together
Financial Literacy Together



Parent Literacy Together

Pilot Project Outcomes:



188 parents who are enrolled in adult education and adult literacy services received Parent Literacy services.

108 parents, **57.4%**, reported increasing engagement in their children's learning.

156 children of those parents received books, supplies, and direct services.

79 children attended the Little Scholars Child Development Center while their parents learned.

30 parents improved their employment skills.

5 parents obtained a GED. **8** had one test to go!

Adult Learning Objectives and Activities for Family Literacy

An **Independent Service** is a brief activity provided to an adult learner during outreach events to engage them in “on-the-spot” learning. These activities should take less than 10 minutes to deliver and should have a specific learning outcome.

Example: Providing a writing prompt with a comprehension question from the book that was presented during Family Literacy Day.

A **Learning on the Go Home Activity** is a brief activity provided to an adult learner that is completed by the learner at home either alone or with their children.

Example: Providing a Read and Seed plant to grow at home and measuring the growth of the plant in a journal.

An **Academic Lesson** is a tutoring or classroom lesson that is contextualized around the theme the adult learner is exploring in the community or at home.

Example: Creating an ESL lesson to help parents practice reading fluently and with expression for StoryWalk® or Storytime activities.

Planning Process

- Determine what academic skills you want to teach during the activity.
- Find the correlations in standards for adult learners and children.
K-12 Common Core State Standards / College and Career Readiness Standards
- Develop learning objectives for adult learners and children.
- Select age-appropriate texts, props, and materials.
- Develop the lesson plan.
- Teach the lesson.
- Evaluate the results.



Photo credit Jeri Love

LESSON PLANNING

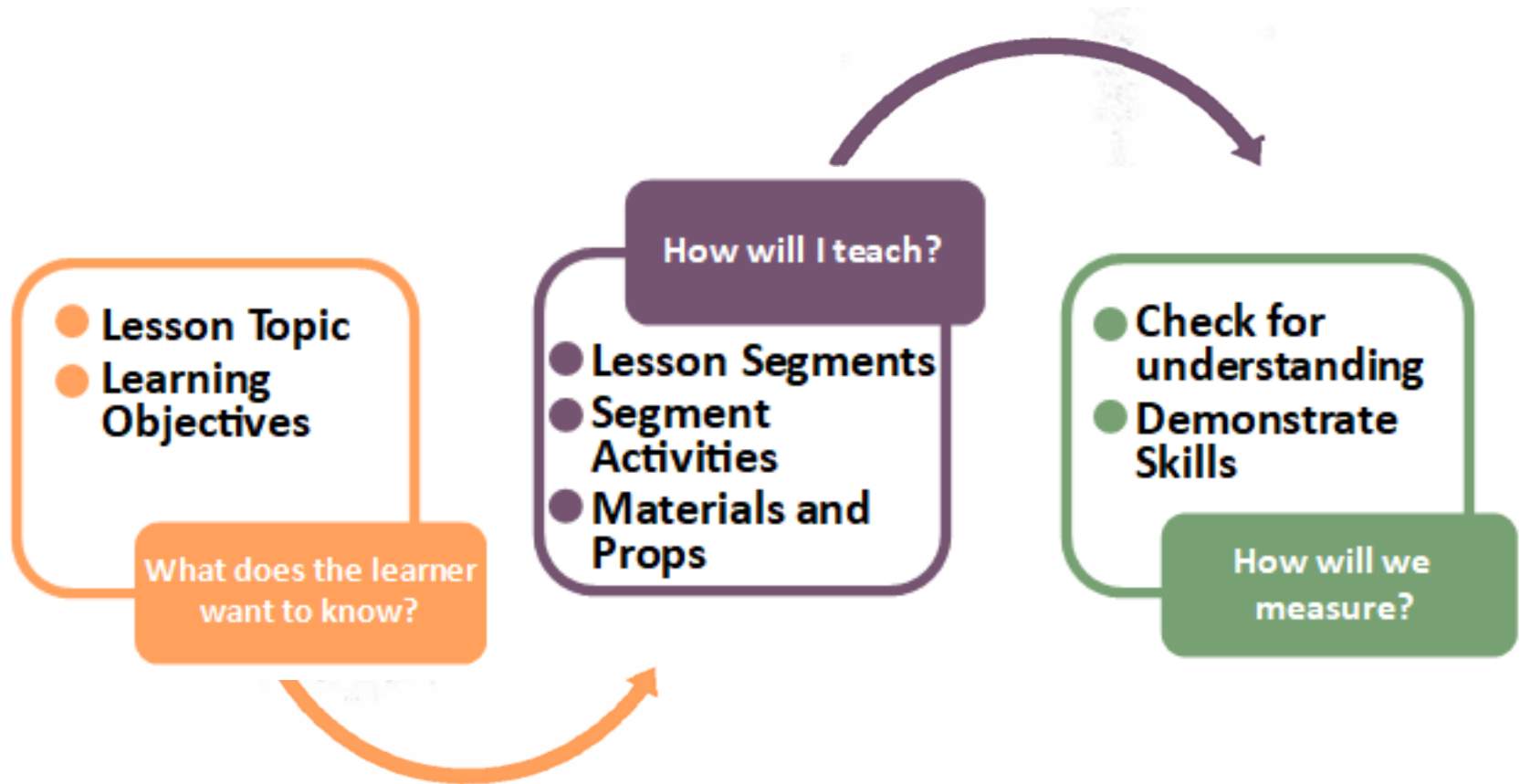




Photo credit Jeri Love

Read and Seed Parent Literacy Together Unit (6-12 Weeks)

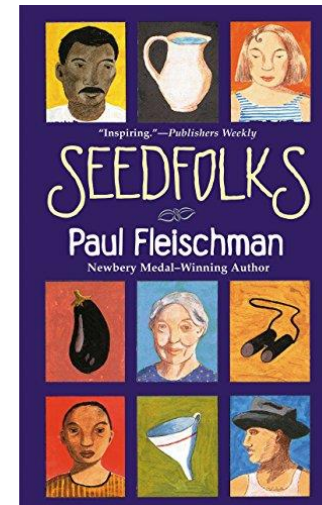
Read and Seed **parents/caregivers** will get:

- Read and Seed Food Co-op bag
- Parent Book: *Seedfolks*
- Journal notebook
- Children's books
- World map
- Market Bucks
- Learning on the Go home activities

Read and Seed **parents/caregivers** will:

- Read or listen and write about *Seedfolks*
- Read to their children
- Visit a community garden
- Visit a farmer's market
- Sign up for Summer Reads at the library
- Complete surveys at the beginning and end of the program
- Complete an Environmental Screening Questionnaire (ESQ)

Supplies and materials are provided to the **family** through the parent/caregiver.



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Read and Seed Parent Literacy Together Unit (6-12 Weeks)

Read and Seed **children** will:

- Read or listen and write about selected age/theme appropriate books.
- Read with their parent/caregiver
- Visit a community garden
- Visit a farmer's market
- Sign up for Summer Reads at the library (if appropriate)

Read and Seed **families** will:

- Visit a community garden and complete multi-generational learning activities
- Visit a farmer's market and complete multi-generational learning activities
- Visit a library and complete multi-generational learning activities
- Grow garden plants from home and other Learning on the Go activities
- Measure progress in a journal using writing prompts

Read and Seed Parent Literacy Together Unit (6-12 Weeks)

StoryWalk® and/or Story Time

What are some adult learning objectives that can be met through this activity?

What correlations (College and Career Readiness/GED ESL) are supported in this activity?

- Social Studies Practice (SSP 10) Reading and Interpreting Graphs, Charts, and Other Data Representation.
- CCR Anchor 2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

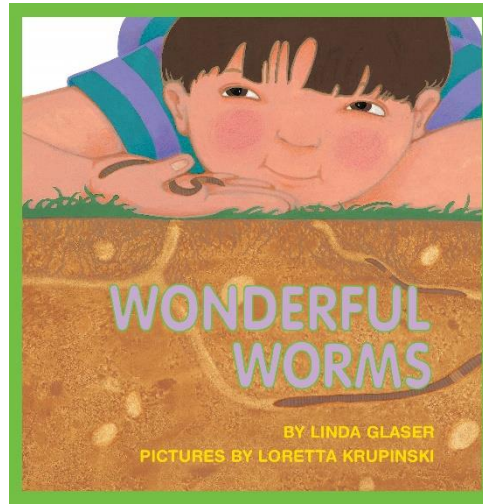
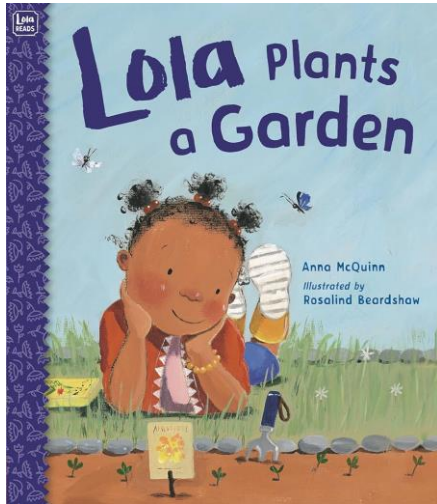


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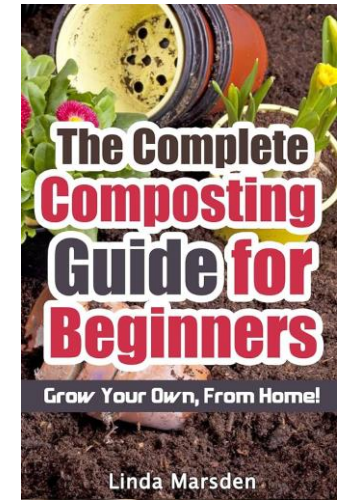
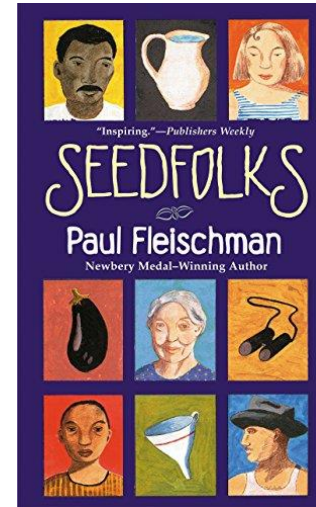
Read and Seed Parent Literacy Together Unit (6-12 Weeks)

Books:

Children



Adults



Family (Multi-generational) Activities:

- StoryWalk®/Storytime
- Garden Sign Art
- Read & Seed Word Search
- Learning on the Go at home family activities

Adult Learning Activities:

- Read & Seed Book Club
- Parent Literacy Together Sessions
- Contextualized ABE/ESL/GED lessons
- At home themed adult learning.

Read and Seed Parent Literacy Together Unit (6-12 Weeks)

Week 1 - Kim

Locate

- Find Kalamazoo, Michigan on your map and write your first initial.
- *Seedfolks* takes place in Cleveland, Ohio. Find Cleveland, Ohio and circle it.
 - The place and time in a story are called *the setting*.
- Kim's family is from Vietnam. Find it on the map and write a K on Vietnam.

Read *Seedfolks*, Chapter 1, Kim, pages 1-4.

- Picture Kim and the vacant lot in your mind.

Vocabulary What does the **bold** word mean? Find it in the chapter, read the sentence, write the meaning below or in your journal.. Use it when you write and speak.

Perspective means the way you look at things.

Each character in *Seedfolks* has a different perspective.

Stern (1) means

Peering (1) means

Vacant (2) means

Hovered (4) means

Pods (4) means

Plump (4) means

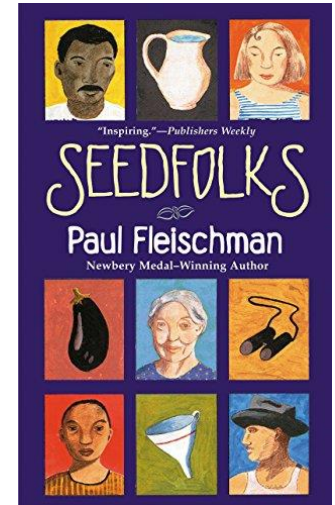
Sprouted (4) means

Thrive (4) means

Idioms (*Sayings with different meanings than you might think.*)

Latched tight (1) means

Break ground (4) means



Sample lesson
created by Laurel
Disney for the
KLC in 2012.

Read and Seed Parent Literacy Together Unit (6-12 Weeks)

Think and Write (*Record your ideas in your journal yourself or dictate to your tutor.*)

1. Describe your experience with gardens or farming? Can you think of any ways gardening might affect people?
2. How would you describe Kim's looks and personality? Sketch, if you want to.
3. Why does Kim decide to start a garden?
4. What was your favorite part of this chapter? Why?
5. What was your favorite line from this chapter? Why?

Activities (*Record your activities in your journal yourself or dictate to your tutor.*)

Check all the *Seedfolks* activities you tried this week. Describe what you saw and did.

Read to a child Visited a Farmers Market Tried a new fruit/vegetable Tried a new recipe Visited the library
 Tried **Tips for Reading with Children**

Reading Read and Seed books with children

Bag Books *One Bean* by Anne Rockwell; *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle

Before reading Ask the child what she/he knows about seeds and how they grow.

Read Talk about the title, pictures, and story during and after reading. Use the Tips.

Library Suggestions (*Ask your librarian, if you need help finding these books*)

From Seed to Plant Rookie Reader by Allan Fowler

From Seed to Plant Gail Gibbons

A Seed Grows by Pamela Hickman

How a Seed Grows by Helene Jordan

Coordinate Plane Activity

K-12 Common Core State Standards / College and Career Readiness Standards

6.NS.6 (6th Grade Number System 6 Standard)

Objectives

- Understand a rational number as a point on a number line.
- Understand signs of numbers in ordered pairs as indicating locations and quadrants of the coordinate plane.
- Find and position integers and other rational numbers on a horizontal diagram.
- Solve real-world mathematic problems by graphing points.

Key Vocabulary

absolute value: the distance a number is away from zero

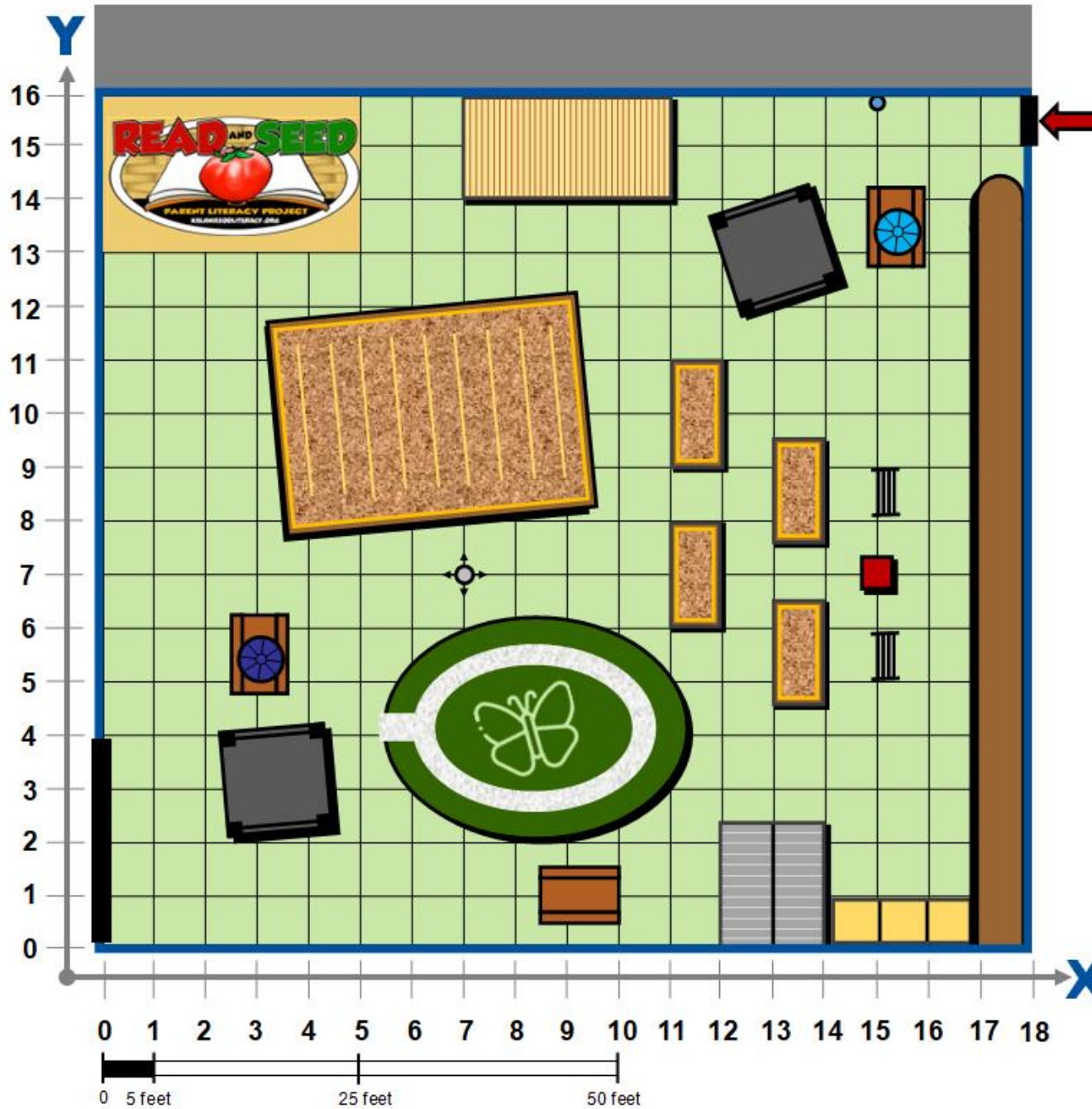
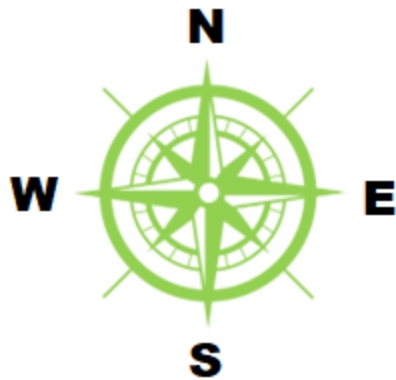
coordinate plane: the plan containing the x- and y- axes

origin: the point (0, 0); where the x- and y- axes intersect

Big Ideas

- The coordinate plane is an intersection of two number lines.
- The coordinate plane is used to measure distance and location of points.

Coordinate Plane Activity

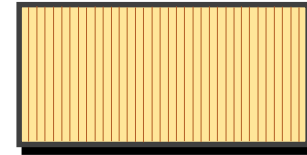


What is located at the following **X/Y** coordinates?

(6,4) _____ (7,7) _____ (16,16) _____

What are the **X/Y** coordinates of the Little Free Library? **X**____ **Y**____

What is the **parameter** and **area** of the **DECK**?



Parameter _____ **Area** _____

On the front of this page, draw a line that plots these four coordinates.

X	Y
12	9
2	4
16	11
6	6

What is located at the **east** end of this line?

Welcome to Literacy Lane!



Read and Seed Parent Literacy Together Unit (6-12 Weeks)

What adult learning outcomes are supported by these activities?

- Obtaining citizenship
- Improving score on a standardized test (CASAS/TABE)
- Obtaining a driver's license or state identification
- Completing a digital literacy class
- Increasing involvement in children's K-12 educational activities
- Completing a consumer or personal finance skills class
- Earning a nationally recognized soft skills or employability skills microcredential
- Pass High School Equivalency-Ready Test or pass one High School Equivalency Test
- Successfully transition to and co-enroll or enroll in Title I WIOA

Parent Literacy Forum



Developing adult learning activities within family literacy.

- Adult learners as storytellers.
- Adults learning from text (vocabulary/fluency).
- Adults responding to activities (comprehension/writing/discussion).
- Adults demonstrating/applying knowledge (with children or alone).

Applications

- Parent Literacy Together Class (ABE/ESL/GED)
- Story Time/ StoryWalk[®]
- Learning at Home Kits
- Literacy Lane
- Family Literacy Day

Join us:

4th Fridays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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QUESTIONS 

IDEAS 



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