



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Essential Building Blocks for Literacy**  
*Raise an Enthusiastic and Successful Reader*

**Woodland, CA** — Reading to children gives them the opportunity to explore exciting new worlds and learn about people and places. It also creates an appreciation for the fun and educational value books offer, allowing children to expand their imagination.

“Parents and caregivers can build a foundation for literacy and strengthen bonds with their children by reading to them starting at an early age,” said Julie Gallelo, executive director of First 5 Yolo. “Research shows that children whose parents read to them tend to become stronger readers and perform better in school.”

In honor of the National Education Association’s Read Across America Day on March 2, First 5 Yolo offers the following tips to encourage you and your family to explore the magic of reading together.

**Highlight the Fun of Reading**

Instill a love of reading in your child by making reading enjoyable.

- Read aloud with your child and ask questions to help him or her follow along. Hearing the sound of a familiar voice helps stimulate the child’s mind and build vocabulary skills.
- Inspire a love of words by playing word games, rhyming, singing and telling stories together. Develop language skills by talking about daily activities and sharing stories about your family or culture.
- Allow your child to hold books and turn the pages – kids love to be hands-on! Encourage him or her to point to pictures and words on the page and even read the words when able to do so.

**Make Reading a Habit**

Read together every day to help your child enter school better prepared.

- Begin reading to your child as soon as you can – it is never too early.
- Take books everywhere and read while on the go – at the doctor's office, in line at the store, on a long car ride or on the bus.
- Show your child how reading is used everywhere around us. Together, read street and store signs, maps, billboards, menus and labels on packages.

**Encourage Children to Explore the Library**

Take a trip to the library to enjoy the latest books and free reading materials.

- Help your child sign up for a library card and attend story times and other free events at your local library.
- Let your child choose books you can read together.
- Create a library at home where a variety of reading materials always is available to your child.

In partnership with the Yolo County Library, bilingual story times in English and Spanish are offered at various sites in Davis, Winters, Knight's Landing, Clarksburg, and West Sacramento. For more information about workshops and other related programs near you, please call the Yolo County Library at (530) 666-8005.

For more information about First 5 Yolo's programs, services and resources, including early childhood literacy, please visit [www.first5yolo.org](http://www.first5yolo.org) or [www.first5california.com/parents](http://www.first5california.com/parents).

### **About First 5 Yolo**

*Research shows a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. In November 1998, California voters passed a statewide ballot initiative to add a 50-cent-per-pack tax on cigarettes. The funds collected are utilized to fund education, health and childcare programs that promote early childhood development from prenatal through age 5. For more information about First 5 Yolo, please visit [www.First5Yolo.org](http://www.First5Yolo.org).*

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