Family Reading Partnership
Strong Families

Strong Communities
When children enter school the difference isn’t so much in intelligence; it is in experience. Children can have a difference of 1,500 hours with the printed word before they enter. Without rich early literacy experiences they enter already as much as 2 years behind their peers.
The 32-Million Word Gap

Total words (in millions) heard by a child by age 4

- Professional: 45
- Working Class: 26
- Poverty: 13

Source: Meaningful Differences by Hart & Risley

10 words a second for 900 hours to reach the 32 million mark in a year!
Mission: To create a culture of literacy in which all children have early, frequent, and pleasurable experiences with books, as a special part of everyday family life, right from the start.
Books Given to Every Baby in Tompkins County

- A book given prenatally
- Choice of book at baby's birth
- Baby Cakes
- Moo, Baa, La La La!
- At Home with Books
- My Village
- Clap Hands
- Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear!
- Barnyard Dance!
The Big Red Reading Tent
...since 2007
Read to Me! Banner
by Maggie Smith
Read to Me! Calendars...since 2004
A Book On Every Bed

Promoted across the country by Amy Dickinson
Revolutionizing the way the alphabet is taught and learned, with song, dance, sign language, and love!
A Community Campaign of the Family Reading Partnership
Imagine...

If every baby in a community is surrounded by loving words, songs, rhymes, stories, and playful engagement every day!
Community Partners

Organizations and individuals from every sector are committed to putting these ideas into practice across the community.
Our Action Plan...

1. **Establish a baseline** of how many babies born in Tompkins County now are talked to, sung to, and read to, so we can continually measure our progress toward our 100% goal.

2. **Provide every expectant, low-income family** with *Read-Along Love Songs for Baby*—a bag of 5 books with a CD of reading and singing, to support interacting with their baby.

3. **Enlist and train Baby Reading Buddies** to volunteer to read to babies at a special “Family Reading Spot” at WIC clinics and child care centers throughout the area.

4. **Give ALL babies a book** at their 2 and 4 month doctor well-visits, so families hear the message to read to their babies from a trusted professional, even earlier.

5. **Inspire all community members** to take action and be involved in promoting and supporting talking and reading to babies in their personal, professional, and civic roles.

6. **Surround families** with radio messages, lawn signs, banners, and billboards to ensure everyone in the community knows to talk, sing, read, and play with babies. Beautiful photos of reading to newborns will decorate the walls of pediatrician and OB/GYN offices.

What You Can Do:

1. **Be an ambassador** and promote TALK, SING, READ, PLAY with friends, at work, at church, or whenever you have a few moments with babies and their families.

2. **Give a book** at baby showers and a book as a gift at baby’s birth. (Some board books aren’t much more expensive than a greeting card!)

3. **Pass on your board books** to a baby you know or recycle your board books to a Bright Red Bookshelf collection crate (in Tompkins County).

4. **Smile, say hello, and even play** peek-a-boo with babies who are ahead of you in the check out line.

5. **Become a Baby Reading Buddy** by completing training at Family Reading Partnership and being matched to a site where you can read to babies.

6. **Donate funds to buy books for babies.** $25 buys 5 board books. Give online or send a check to us at 54 Gunderman Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

For more ideas and information call 607-277-8602 or visit www.familyreading.org.
The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) at Cornell U. invites you to:

Donate New Books for New Babies!

- Choose the books you’d like
- Pay for the books online
- We’ll do the rest!

Visit www.familyreading.org to donate a book!

10 titles to choose from!

Books will be given to babies from low-income families in Tompkins County.
Early Inspiration

All families receive a book at the hospital when their baby is born.
County health department nurses who see families at home visits bring additional books, resources, and support.
Modeling and Support

“Baby Reading Buddy” volunteers talk, sing, read, and play with babies in the community.
It’s never too early
to give your baby
loving words...
Your face and your voice are your baby’s first and most important toys.
Babies Belong at the Library!

Baby's First Library Card

Come...
connect with other families
have fun at our story times with your baby and toddler

Stay...
relax in our child and baby friendly environment
enjoy an abundance of books for your baby and for yourself

Play!
check out our collection for babies
meet other babies and play together with the library's baby toys
“It’s not the toys in the house that make the difference in children’s lives; it’s the words in their heads. The least expensive thing we can give a baby outside of a hug turns out to be the most valuable: WORDS! “

~ Jim Trelease, The Read Aloud Handbook
Imagine how many families and communities would be strengthened if Every Baby! Every Day! Talk. Sing. Read. Play. is in every community across New York State?

• What would it take to make this happen?
• Who would the partners/collaborators be?

Imagine…Envision… Believe! Together we can make it happen!
Local Leaders Help Spread the Word!

Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick hosted a “flock” of lawn signs inviting people to take one and help Spread the Word!

He also recorded a Public Service Announcement inviting everyone to join the initiative!
Thank you!

Family Reading Partnership