

# The Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy

is a 501 c 3 non-profit public foundation with the mission to make a difference in early lives by “providing books for local communities to prepare all Georgia preschool children for reading and learning success.”

*The books are mailed on a monthly basis free of charge* to each registered child from birth until five years of age in participating Georgia communities. Each child receives a customized welcome book as his or her first book and an age-appropriate book arrives monthly until the child’s 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Parents, educators and child development specialists carefully select this 60-volume set of books.

*This literacy support initiative* includes a monthly parent newsletter designed to provide parents with supportive material that reinforces the importance of early learning and encourages them to read frequently with their children. It features tailored reading guides and child activity pages, all specially designed to make reading fun for the whole family!

## Program Benefits

The **Ferst Foundation** program eliminates the key reason why parents do not read to their child – the availability of quality books in the home.

The program goals include encouraging children to learn through reading and promoting parent/family involvement in achieving early school success for their children.



## Critical Need

- 61% of low-income families do not have a single book in the home suitable for a child.
- Vocabulary development by age 3 is a predictor of reading achievement by third grade.
- Young children who are read to regularly by their parents develop better literacy skills, are better readers when they reach elementary school, and are more likely to succeed academically.
- 35-40% of children enter kindergarten unprepared to learn.
- Children who are not reading on grade level by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are much less likely to graduate from high school.
- The number of age-appropriate books in the home can be a stronger predictor of literacy and academic achievement than family income.
- Georgia spends \$170 million a year on remedial education.



## Yes! I want to contribute!

*(circle donation amount)*



*(fill in other)*

You can make a difference in a child’s life.  
As little as \$36 will provide  
12 books for one child for one year!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you  
for your tax-deductible gift!*

Online donations can be made at:  
[ferstfoundation.org](http://ferstfoundation.org)

or mail this form to:

*Douglas County Ferst Foundation  
PO Box 2219  
Douglasville, Ga. 30133*

## Just look at our results:

99% of those surveyed say someone in the home reads with their child every day.

-2012 FFCL Parent Survey

“Since collaborating with Ferst Foundation we have seen scores on our kindergarten readiness test increase from **46% ready to over 90% ready.**”

-Dr. Stan DeJarnett,  
former Morgan County Superintendent

### 2014 Morgan County CRCT Results

The first Ferst book was mailed in Morgan County in spring of 2000. The Morgan County Community Action Team (CAT) maintains an 80-95% registration penetration level. The chart below shows how Morgan County's results compared to the GA state average in grades 3-8.

Grade	READING		ENGLISH/ LANGUAGE ARTS	
	Morgan	State	Morgan	State
3	98%	91%	98%	86%
4	99%	94%	95%	89%
5	99%	95%	97%	95%
6	99%	97%	97%	92%
7	97%	95%	99%	94%
8	99%	97%	97%	95%

## YOU Can Make a Difference in a Child's Life!

The first 2000 days of a child's life from birth to kindergarten are critical. We want every child ready to read proficiently. We want every child to perform well in school. We want every child to graduate from high school on time. We want every child to grow up prepared to compete in the global economy.



## Ferst Foundation for CHILDHOOD LITERACY



*Early school success begins  
with books at home.*

*Children who read -  
Succeed!*



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