

# Read to Grow

## Children's Book Club

The goal of Read to Grow Children's Book Club is to have children enter kindergarten with the necessary pre-literacy skills and brain development.

Read to Grow Children's Book Club provides one free book a month to children, from birth to age five, who are living at or below the 150% of the poverty level.

Parents are encouraged to read regularly to their child. Regular reading to children promotes proper brain development during the prime time for learning literacy skills, the first five years of life.

In 2015, the Read to Grow Children's Book Club placed 6,717 books with 978 preschool children from low-income families. Parents logged over 15,962 hours of reading time. The passing rate of standardized, language arts tests has improved as Read to Grow Children's Book Club graduates progress through school. In fact, the passing rate of Free and Reduced Lunch Program children in Kosciusko County was 7.8% higher than the state average, while the paid lunch children were 0.1 % higher than the state average.

47% (47 of 99) of Read to Grow Children's Book Club graduates made the third grade honor roll while 46% (52 of 112) of Read to Grow Children's Book Club graduates made the fourth grade honor roll during the fall of 2015. (Milford and Syracuse do not report honor roll for third and fourth grade. Therefore, the percent would increase if these students were included.)