

# AaBbCc™

## BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY LITERACY

**Who We Are:** The nation's leading advocate for family literacy. We provide access to and choice of educational opportunities for young children and their parents.



**Our History:** Our founder and former First Lady Barbara Bush believes that family literacy is key to solving today's most critical challenges: social and economic mobility, quality of life, and global competitiveness. In 1989, Barbara Bush pioneered the national family literacy movement, launching the Foundation that focuses simultaneously on early childhood education for preschoolers and adult literacy for their parents.

**The Stark Reality:** A staggering 36 million adults in the U.S. have low literacy skills. One in four adults cannot read above a 5th grade level, and research shows the single greatest indicator of a child's future success is the literacy level of his or her parents.

**Our Proven Response:** The Foundation's innovative approach provides access to high-quality, independently evaluated family literacy programs.

### **The Barbara Bush Foundation empowers families and improves futures by encouraging the pursuit of learning at any age.**

- Barbara Bush Foundation family literacy grants provide low-income parents and their young children, typically birth through age five, the opportunity to attend school together.
- Toddlers and preschoolers enrolled in our family literacy programs are prepared to start school ready for academic success.
- Elementary-age children boost their reading and comprehension skills when paired with high school students in our Teen Trendsetters™ reading mentors program. Our teens excel, as well as achieve high graduation rates.

### **Children and parents in all 50 states have benefited from our family literacy programs.**

### **Literacy Facts**

- A child from a highly educated family will experience 30 million more words by the age of three than a child from a low-literate home.
- Almost half of all children born to a mother lacking a high school diploma are not ready to start kindergarten.
- Students who do not read proficiently by the third grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma.

### **Our Achievements**

- Nearly half of all preschoolers (46%) entering Barbara Bush Foundation family literacy programs were at risk for developmental delays. By the end of the year, only 14% remained at risk, representing a 70% decrease in the number of children at risk for developmental delays.
- Parents enrolled in the Foundation's family literacy programs, on average, improved their literacy skills by two grade levels in one year.
- Elementary students—who entered the Teen Trendsetters™ program, on average, half a year behind in reading—advanced their reading skills an entire grade level.

**Update:** The \$7M Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE presented by Dollar General Literacy Foundation has 8 semifinalist teams from all over the world testing mobile learning applications able to move low-literate adults to basic literacy in just one year.

Visit [adulthoodliteracy.xprize.org](http://adulthoodliteracy.xprize.org) for more information.

For additional information, please contact [info@barbarabush.org](mailto:info@barbarabush.org) or visit [www.BarbaraBush.org](http://www.BarbaraBush.org)