



Mission, Vision, and Principles--Adopted 2021

Vision: All children will have a love of books and strong language skills before beginning school.

Mission: Connecting families with young children to the joy of books and read-aloud experiences to expand their horizons.

Family Reading Partnership believes that:

- 1) Literacy, the ability to read, write, and communicate, is a valuable tool in advancing individual opportunity and societal growth.
- 2) The early years, from before birth through age 5, is the most crucial time for building the foundation on which all future learning relies.
- 3) The pre-literacy skills needed to learn to read are built through:
 - strong and early relationship building via back-and-forth communication, read-aloud interaction, and playtime with loving caregivers.
 - exposure to a wide variety of inclusive and diverse books that both provide representation and give children a wider view of the world,
 - positive examples and associations with books and reading,
 - the early opportunity to hear and practice with a wealth of vocabulary and language, and
 - physical movement and play in indoor and outdoor environments.
- 4) Equity in educational resources is crucial to ensuring that children in our community have the opportunity to learn.
- 5) Families are best served when formal and informal social services networks work as a team to empower community members.

We strive to stay true to these principles by:

- Distributing free new and gently used books to all young children in Tompkins County.
- Carefully selecting books to be diverse and age appropriate for children at each developmental stage from before birth to age five.
- Partnering with local medical practices, childcare providers, teachers, libraries, and social service agencies to determine need and connect families to resources.
- Offering free interactive Story Walks, updated seasonally and spaced across Tompkins County.
- Building special programs that focus on low resource families and young parents in order to interrupt the cycles of poverty and educational inequity.
- Hosting events and developing resources that encourage child/caregiver interaction with reading, music, and play.