

Connect the Dots...

Difficulties in school and literacy deficiencies have their roots in early childhood.



Early Literacy in the Home:

Children in poor households with less-educated parents begin to show a gap in language as early as 9 months, and this gap widens through the preschool years.

There is a significant link between the words a child hears during the first three years of life and later academic success. Poor children will hear up to 30 million fewer words during the critical first four years of life.



Early Education and Literacy:

Recent studies show that 100% of the achievement gap in reading originates before the first day of kindergarten, and many children are more than 18 months behind their peers. For a child not reading on grade level in the first grade, there is a 90% chance she will not be reading on grade level by third grade. High quality early education programs are a proven way to close achievement gaps and level the playing field.



Early Education – Grades P-3:

Failure to read on grade level in third grade is a crucial marker in a child's educational development and is linked to higher rates of school dropout.

In Alabama, of 100 students who enter ninth grade, 64 will graduate from high school. Of these, 43 enter college, and there are only 27 left after the first year.



Literacy and Adult Success:

Of the 43 who enter college, 15 will graduate from college with a B.S. degree. They are more likely to enter the job market as tax-paying citizens. Employable, tax-paying citizens are critical to a vital economy.

We cannot connect the dots looking forward; we can only connect them by looking backward. - Steve Jobs

Information from:

Alabama's Action Plan for Literacy: http://www.alsde.edu/general/STATE_LITERACY_PLAN.pdf

Disparities in Child Outcomes in the First Two Years of Life. Halle, Forry, Hair & Perper, 2010:
http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2009_07_10_FR_DisparitiesEL.pdf

Early Literacy: Policy and Practice in the Preschool Years. Strickland and Riley-Ayers, National Institute for Early Education Research, 2006: <http://nieer.org/resources/policybriefs/10.pdf>

Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters, Summary of a Kids Count Special Report. Annie E. Casey Foundation:
<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/123/2010KCSpecReport/Special%20Report%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

Student Pipeline – Transition and Completion Rates from 9th Grade to College. ACHE:
www.higheredinfo.org