



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes
June 10, 2026, 3:00pm – 4:00pm
via Zoom

Meeting Objective: Discuss workgroup future goals

Attendees: Cindy Reese (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition (BCECC)), Aaron Fox (Aaron Fox Writes), Sarah Howard (Daniel Boone Regional Library (DBRL)), Kelly Scheuerman (Brighter Beginnings), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Enola-Riann White (BCCSD)

1. Welcome

a. Partner Updates

- Sarah provided an update on Summer Reading now underway at DBRL, with over 200 attending the launch concert at Stephens Lake Park. Various programs geared to older children are being offered by the library this summer. To allow for the “AL” the Otter mascot to protect his feet, Sarah purchased some rain boots which could be worn for outdoor events.
- Aaron shared about his involvement in some upcoming events, including CoMo Grown-Up Book Fair at Rose Park this Saturday. Aaron will provide Raising Readers information at his booth and early bird attendees will have a Raising Readers sticker and bookmark in their bags.
- Gina mentioned the release of the [Boone County Children's Services Board's Strategic Plan](#), with plans for community meetings to provide more information on their plan and funding priorities to likely start in late July 2026. There is currently an opening on the Children's Services Board and anyone with interest can [apply online](#) or reach out with any questions.

2. Raising Readers report

The workgroup discussed the status of the Raising Readers literacy campaign and made suggestions to support participation and communication.

3. Workgroup future goals

Conversation of future workgroup goals began with a discussion of the end to funding for Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) from the State of Missouri. This included review of the implications for Boone County and information provided by The Dollywood Foundation about the requirements for areas wanting to provide DPIL within a community. Discussion included review of how DPIL operated locally prior to state funding, noting some comparisons about the process and engagement. A workgroup goal was identified as continuing to support book access in Boone County. Along with interest in highlighting ways to get low and no cost books, ideas for potential outreach, communication, and events were discussed.

4. Next Steps

In addition to planning for a potential “AL” the Otter appearance at the next Family Fun Fest next week, the group plans to build on ideas for book access and Raising Readers during the next meeting.

- Continue developing support for Raising Readers (elevator pitch, social media hints/content).
- Compile a list of where to access free books and continue to consider ways to support this goal.

5. Closing

The workgroup meeting closed with a reminder that the next workgroup meeting will again be virtual only.

Next Workgroup Meeting: July 8, 2026 3:00 – 4:00pm via Zoom

**Upward Mobility is an initiative of the Boone County Community Services Department
and is funded in part by the Boone County Children's Services Fund.**