BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes
October 14 2026, 3:00pm – 4:30pm
via Zoom

Meeting Objective: Discuss workgroup future goals

Attendees: Hannah Crull–Sher (ECPBS, Center for Child Well-Being), Sarah Howard (Daneil Boone Regional Library), Cindy Reese (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition (BCECC)), Kelly Scheuerman (Brighter Beginnings), Aaron Fox (Aaron Fox Writes), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Michelle Thompson (BCCSD), Enola-Riann White (BCCSD),

1. Welcome
   a. Enola opened the meeting with introductions
2. Partner Updates
   a. Cindy Reses (BCECC) shared their screening program expanding. They currently only serve Boone County, Center for Child Well-Being received grant from SAMSA will be part of central Missouri infant and early childhood mental health coalition to expand to the other counties that touch Boone County starting in 2027.
   b. Sarah Howard (DBRL) reminded the workgroup the library is closed on 10/16 for staff training and major HVAC work
   c. Kelly Scheuerman (Brighter Beginnings) shared they are planning their annual summit. She will send out more information on how to nominate a home visitor for a national award. She also shared the health department is having an open house 10/17 10:00am – 1:00pm for the community to come in to learn about the health department it is a family friendly event.
   d. Aaron Fox (Aaron Fox Writes) announced his new book Hungry, Hungry Hudson is available for pre-order on BackerKit: https://www.backerkit.com/c/projects/aaron-fox-writes/hungry-hungry-hudson/pre-launch
3. Follow up from last meeting
   a. Gina summarized what occurred at the previous meeting, Dolly Parton Imagination Library discussions and collaboration.
   b. November Meeting Date
      i. The workgroup decided to meet on November 9th at 12:00pm virtually.
4. Raising Readers Updates
   a. Book Drive
      i. Enola shared an update that 265 books had been collected so far, the book drive at ACA is scheduled to end on October 31st. They have a goal of collecting 500 books.
   b. PeachJar
      i. Columbia and Hallsville school districts use PeachJar, however the county schools do not. There were questions and discussion on how distribution would work. Ultimately, it was decided to table PeachJar at this time

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5. Workgroup future goals
   a. The workgroup decided to focus on building Raising Reader's social media presence and audience.
   b. Ideas disused included posts on how to expand story time into ways that would be helpful for parents/caregivers with reading books to kids
      i. Sarah shared DBRL participated in Read from the Start (grant funded by Missouri Humanities). Funding has expired and they are searching for ways to do something similar. The workgroup expressed interest in revitalizing the program if DBRL is unable. Sarah also shared a resource called Teaching Books which is paid for the state.
      ii. Aaron is going to share worksheets for his published books for Raising Readers to share on social media to get started.
   c. An idea for an annual event similar to the Grown Up Book Fair, but geared towards kids was discussed. It was decided that at this time that would be a significant undertaking, but other ways to engage the community would be to send an email to those on the Raising Readers email list to share they can borrow AL for events and share other ways they can engage with the campaign, including having someone table at their events.
6. Next Steps
   a. Enola will share a guide to costume rental/borrowing and send to Sarah to adapt for AL.
   b. Enola will send a link to the shared document for the workgroup to review the language and make updates.
   c. Aaron is going to share the worksheets for his books.
   d. Workgroup members are asked to complete the Annual Feedback Survey as the results will be discussed at the next meeting.
7. Closing

Next Workgroup Meeting: November 9th 12:00 – 1:30pm Virtual