



## **Literacy Statistics**

- Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's oldest and largest literacy organization, has for the last 40 years provided print material and training to support the literacy needs of disadvantaged youngsters. We have known for a long time that poverty is the risk factor most highly associated with academic risk and our efforts have focused on working to mediate the effects through access to print materials and literacy resources. However, when we focus on those at greatest risk, the data is alarming.
- While most parents know that supporting their children's reading skills is essential to improving their lives, they aren't always sure what the best ways to develop those skills are. One very important piece of the puzzle is reading.
- Research shows that the simple act of reading aloud to their young children is the single most important thing that parents can do to develop a child's literacy skills. Talking, singing, and playing rhyming games also stimulate language and vocabulary skills in infants and toddlers, which are good foundations for learning to read. Studies show that children who read for pleasure do better in school.
- Nearly two-thirds of low-income families have no books for children in their homes. Over 80 percent of childcare centers serving low-income children lack age-appropriate books and other print materials.

Reading Is Fundamental can provide you with additional statistics, or expert interviews, to address:

- Why access to books is fundamental to reading success
- The critical importance of early childhood education
- Incorporating information from U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, *The Nation's Report Card: Reading*, in your story.
- The tie between poverty, access to books, and success in school and life.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, contact Layla Wright-Contreras at 202-536-3528, [LWright@RIF.org](mailto:LWright@RIF.org).