Southern Pines Children

Twenty-eight percent of children age 0-5 live in poverty; this number increased over 22% from 2000.

While 73% of all Southern Pines Elementary Children meet grade level reading requirements, only 54% of 3rd graders in poverty were reading on grade level in 2010-11.

What we are doing

- As a community, we recognize that we need to work together to make sure all of our children learn to read and succeed in school.
- Together, over 20 community partners created Southern Pines Grows Great Readers, a plan to increase opportunities, remove barriers, help parents, and support our schools.
- For this plan, the National Civic League named
 Southern Pines a 2012 All-America City.
- Now, we are putting our plan into action, increasing community activity, and striving to improve our town!

How you can help!

- Get involved! Contact us for volunteer opportunities to further the Campaign!
- Work with your children's schools and care centers to make sure your child is developing necessary skills by third grade.
- Read with your child every day.
- * Make attending school a priority.
- * Enroll in learning camps, library programs, or other educational opportunities during the summer!



Reading skills in third grade are the most important predictor of school success and high school graduation.

Reading well by the end of third grade is one of the most important skills that children must develop.

Beginning in the fourth grade, children must shift from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. They must be able to read and understand textbooks and other information in order to learn subjects such as science, social studies, language, and math.

Children who do not read well by the end of third grade are much less likely to graduate from high school and succeed in life.

Children living in poverty are less likely to learn to read well by the end of third grade.

The Campaign for Grade Level Reading and Southern Pines Grows Great Readers are based on the belief that the whole community is responsible for helping all children achieve. Schools cannot do this alone. We must work together for our children — who are our future.

Southern Pines Grows Great Readers focuses on three major challenges to students' reading success, and improving these areas through community action:

The Readiness Gap: This happens with children do not have the skills and experiences they need when they start kindergarten. To be ready, children must be learning from the time they are born. Children who are read to regularly, have books in their homes, see their parents reading, and attend good day-care and Pre-K programs are more likely to be ready for kindergarten.

Avoid the Readiness Gap! Make sure you spend time each day reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing with your child.

The Attendance Gap: This happens when children miss school or are late to school too often. Much of the school day is spent in learning to read. When children miss the lessons and time to practice, they fall behind in learning.

Avoid the Attendance Gap! Make sure your child attends every day and gets to school on time.

The Summer Slide: This happens when children lose ground during the summer months. Some children lose as much as three months of reading skills over the summer. If this occurs, they may be nearly three grade levels behind their peers by the end of fifth grade.

Avoid the Summer Slide! Make sure that your child reads every day. Southern Pines offers many community programs that combine experiences for learning with having fun with other kids.

