

# Raising A Reader

The Raising A Reader mission is to foster healthy brain development, parent-child bonding and early literacy skills critical for school success by engaging parents in a routine of daily “book cuddling” with their children from birth to age five.



## Chatham County Partnership for Children

### Our Mission

The Partnership promotes opportunities for all our young children to grow up safe, healthy, and able to succeed. In collaboration with our community partners, we plan, fund, and implement quality care and education, health, and family support initiatives.

### We are home to:



A comprehensive public-private initiative launched by Governor Hunt in 1993 to address the concern that many children begin school unprepared for school success.

Programs that help all young children and families by bringing together and strengthening existing resources.




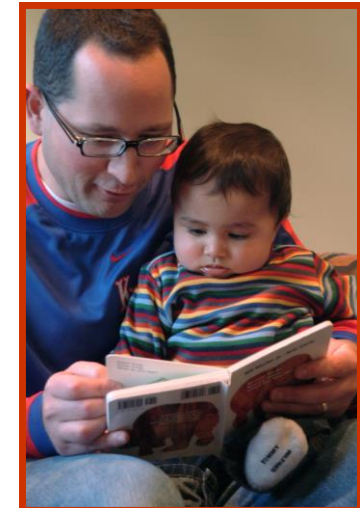
To learn more, call our office

**(919) 542-7449**

or visit

[www.chathamkids.org](http://www.chathamkids.org)

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**PARENTS  
AND  
CHILDREN  
READING  
TOGETHER**

## **RAISING A READER A PARENT'S ROLE**



If you are like most parents, you want your child to be well prepared for success in school. You know that learning to read is one of the most important skills that your child will need to succeed. What you may not know is how important, but easy, your role is. You don't need fancy toys or expensive computer programs.

**Your mind, your voice,  
your ideas and your love are  
what your child needs to reach  
his or her potential.**

Research indicates that a love of reading is linked to life success. "The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school."

*National Commission on Reading, 1985*

### **Why YOU Are So Important**

- Babies and young children **need to hear plenty of language** for brain development.
- **80% of a child's brain growth is complete by age 3**, and most of that time is spent with their families.
- The more experience young children have with language, **the more their brains will grow.**
- **Children who are talked with and read to** by their families when they are young do better in school, read better, graduate more often and are more likely to be employed as adults.



### **What You Can Do**

**Talk to your child. Listen to your child:**

- Talk about what you are doing, what you did, what you are going to do
- Encourage your child to tell you stories and ask questions
- Share nursery rhymes, sing songs

**Share books with your child:**

- Snuggle up and get close
- Ask questions
- Talk about the pictures and new words
- Share the book repeatedly
- Let your child take the lead

### **It's Okay...**

- To read only part of the book
- If you don't read well
- If you have an accent or don't speak English
- If your child wants to hold the book and read it to you
- If you only talk about the pictures