



Story Leaders

Page Ahead's newest program takes preschool students beyond being passive listeners, to being active learners during story time.



Why *Story Leaders*?

All children love hearing stories. But reading to children can be more than just entertaining. Children tend to listen passively during typical story times. However, specific early reading techniques can help them actively participate in the story reading – building confidence, and vocabulary, and reinforcing language skills that are essential to learning to read.

Over the course of a year, low-income children hear 8 million fewer words than children from affluent families. *Story Leaders* aims to close this word gap by empowering high-need families through literacy training and access to books. This new program gives every student a copy of the story time book. This enables families to continue the learning process at home, forging an even deeper connection between the students and the books. By the end of the school year, each student will receive 8 different books from in-class story times.

How does *Story Leaders* work?

Shared Reading – a strategy proven to increase language development and kindergarten readiness. Shared Reading stimulates young students to think about, understand, and retain the vocabulary, text, and content in books. This strategy enables students to take a more active role in reading, substantially increasing their early reading skills.

Teacher Training – Page Ahead trains teachers in high-need preschool classrooms to use Shared Reading strategies with their students. Reading from specially designed “Shared Reading Book Kits,” teachers encourage their students to engage deeply with each book. During the experience, the students are drawn into the reading, using the vocabulary, expanding their own ideas, and actively becoming the “story leader,” guided by the teacher.

Reading Resources – Each reading kit contains a book for the classroom; copies of the book for all the students to take home and keep; as well as resources for parents.

How can I bring *Story Leaders* to my school?

Please contact info@pageahead.org for information about implementing the *Story Leaders* program at your high-need preschool.