



A child's path to a brighter future is paved with books.

Great News! Appling County is partnering with a nonprofit organization called Ferst Readers. Ferst Readers' books will get the whole family excited about reading together! Ferst Readers will place a book with an activity newsletter in the home of Appling County children from birth up to age 5. This promotes early literacy skills and school readiness to strengthen our families. Participating children receive an age-appropriate book mailed monthly to their home, daycare, or school. In addition, a newsletter is included with reading tips, local literacy events, and literacy resources to assist parents as their child's "first teacher." More information about the program can be found at <https://ferstreaders.org/>.

Why is reading at home so important?

- Reading regularly with your children, starting at birth, greatly affects how well their brains develop, which makes them better learners when they start school.
- Children who have early reading experiences at home are happier and more successful students throughout their school years.

THREE OPTIONS TO REGISTER A CHILD AND/OR MAKE A DONATION

1. Use this link (<https://bit.ly/FerstReadersAppling>) and follow the prompts **to register and/or donate**.
2. Use the QR code below and follow the prompts **to register or donate**.

Register a child



Donate to Appling County Ferst Readers



3. Fill out the information below to turn into the Appling County Board of Education **to register a child**.
4. **To make a donation** for this cause, turn in a check to Ferst Readers for \$42 per child at the Appling County Board of Education.

***** All donations are tax deductible and will go to the children in Appling County.*****

Complete information for any child under the age of 5 in your home:

#1 Child's name (first/last): _____

Birthdate: ____/____/20____ **Gender:** M____ F ____

Ethnicity: (check all that apply) American Indian____ Asian____ Black/African American____ Hispanic/Latino____ White____

PreK Experience: PreK/Preschool____ HeadStart/Early HeadStart____ Daycare____ None____

#2 Child's name (first/last): _____

Birthdate: ____/____/20____ **Gender:** M____ F ____

Ethnicity: (check all that apply) American Indian____ Asian____ Black/African American____ Hispanic/Latino____ White____

PreK Experience: PreK/Preschool____ HeadStart/Early HeadStart____ Daycare____ None____

Thank you for your consideration of this beneficial endeavor for our community!

Child's Mailing Address: _____ Apt# _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Parent's Name (first/last): _____ **Military/Veteran?** Y__ N__

County: _____ **Cell/Phone (_____)** _____

Email: _____ @ _____ ***Please provide a valid**

email/phone number so we can contact you if your child's book is lost or returned. We do not share email addresses/phone numbers with third parties. I certify the information above is correct.

Parent Signature



Our Mission

Ferst Readers' mission is "strengthening communities by providing quality books and literacy resources for children and their families to use at home during the earliest stages of development." Ferst Readers wants every child to have the best start in life - and nothing helps a baby's brain develop more than exposure to rich language and loving interactions. The key is having books in the home and being read to - right from birth.

Our vision is "to create better learners, brighter futures, and stronger communities by giving every child under five access to quality books in their homes."

Children in the Ferst Readers literacy program receive bookstore-quality, age-specific books and resources mailed to them at home every month until their fifth birthday. It is this access to print which helps create a language-rich environment in the home.

About us



Ferst Readers started in Georgia and has expanded to serve children in Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.



Each month, **more than 50,000 children receive books in their homes** from Ferst Readers.



Our model is for children, birth to five years old, to receive an age-appropriate **book in their home monthly**.



Each book is accompanied by a **parent engagement newsletter**, which contains a learning guide to help them while reading to their child.



When parents read to children **3xs** per week from birth, the child has a vocabulary of **almost 300** words by the age of two.



Children who are read to 3xs per week are **2xs** as likely to score in the **top 25% in reading** comprehension tests than those who are not.

Our Impact



Ferst Readers' participants **score higher** on kindergarten post tests.



Over **8,000,000** books delivered to homes since 1999.



85% of Ferst Readers' parents read at home daily compared to the national average of 43%.