



Black Hills READS

Black Hills Reads helps to ensure children are proficient readers by the end of third grade.

Black Hills Reads brings together partners across many sectors to strengthen the systems that serve early learners and promote literacy opportunities for children under 9 in the Black Hills.



4 FACTS About Reading Proficiency



1

Reading proficiency by 3rd grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success.

2

In South Dakota nearly three in four 4th graders are not reading proficiently.¹

3

Children not reading on grade level by third grade are four times more likely to not graduate on time.

4

Kindergarten and 1st grade are the most chronically absent - missing nearly one month of school over the course of a year.²

1. 2024 Reading Snapshot Report: South Dakota Grade 4. National Center for Education Statistics.

2. Chronic Elementary Absenteeism: A Problem Hidden in Plain Sight. Institution of Education Sciences. November 2011.

OUR EFFORTS

Awareness activities

- Annual Race to Read Challenge
- Young Writers Contest
- Resource guides for providers and parents.

Program Coordination

- Young Reader One Book program
- Childcare Networking 'Power Hour' events
- Baby's First Bookbag
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program
- BHR's innovation grants and UWBH Education grants to providers.

Large-scale collaborative efforts

We partner with Early Learner South Dakota efforts by participating in Early Learner Rapid City and providing navigation and funding support for Early Learner Communities throughout the Black Hills.



OUR FOCUS

BOOK
ACCESS

SCHOOL
READINESS

FAMILY /
CAREGIVER
ENGAGEMENT

We focus on three pillar areas to address the challenges of reading achievement.

CONTACT US!



Black Hills Reads

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