

EARLY CHILDHOOD READING READINESS

RESOLUTION

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Karen W. Morgan

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor encourages "Reading With a Child 20 Minutes a Day."

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the value that "Reading with a Child 20 Minutes a Day" contributes to the lifelong learning and success of children and the well-being of society as a whole; and

- ▶ encourages "Reading with a Child 20 Minutes a Day" to help children prepare for and advance through their schooling.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, research shows many children are not starting school with the skills they need to be successful readers;

WHEREAS, within a kindergarten classroom there is a five-year range in reading ability, with some children at age five possessing the reading skills of a three-year-old and others possessing the reading skills of a seven-year-old;



28 WHEREAS, this "reading readiness gap" originates during the years prior to
29 kindergarten and is rarely a reflection of intelligence but rather opportunities;

30 WHEREAS, children who lack reading readiness skills as they enter kindergarten have
31 a more difficult time learning to read;

32 WHEREAS, the brain development that occurs in an infant before the age of one is
33 rapid and extensive;

34 WHEREAS, by the age of two, a child's brain has twice as many synapses, or
35 connections, as an adult brain, and using and strengthening these networks is fundamental to
36 learning;

37 WHEREAS, during the first three years of life, children learn at a speed that is
38 unmatched during the rest of life;

39 WHEREAS, the part of the human brain that develops critical visual, auditory, and
40 learning skills needs to be stimulated early and often, and a nonstimulating environment can
41 hamper brain development;

42 WHEREAS, young children learn by gentle repetition and engaging interactions with
43 caring adults, including speaking, singing, playing, and sharing stories, regardless of family
44 income or which language is spoken in the home;

45 WHEREAS, simply reading aloud to a child, especially during the preschool years, will
46 help lay an important intellectual and motivational foundation for eventually learning to read;
47 and

48 WHEREAS, the Utah Commission on Literacy was created by an Executive Order of
49 the Governor on December 22, 2004, to increase public awareness of the importance of
50 reading, to maximize the percentage of Utah children who read at or above grade level by the
51 end of the third grade, and to maximize the number of children who read with an adult 20
52 minutes a day:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
54 Governor concurring therein, recognize the value that "Reading with a Child 20 Minutes a
55 Day" contributes to the lifelong learning and success of children and the well-being of society
56 as a whole.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage
58 "Reading with a Child 20 Minutes a Day" to help eliminate the reading readiness gap as

59 children prepare for and advance through their schooling.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah State
61 Board of Education, the Utah State Office of Education, the Utah Parent Teachers Association,
62 and the Utah Commission on Literacy.

Legislative Review Note

as of 1-31-06 6:46 PM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel