

MAKING FAMILY LITERACY POSSIBLE AND PRACTICAL

Prime Time Family Reading is a national program serving 6- to 10-year-old kids and their families. Participating families build early literacy skills, engage in critical thinking, and connect with each other through literature and discussion.

During each six-week session, 15-25 families gather weekly to share a meal, read stories together, and talk about the big ideas that are foundational to our society—like empathy, justice, and truth.



A 2026 STUDY FROM LEH FOUND PRIME TIME PARTICIPATION LEADS TO GAINS SIMILAR TO MOVING A CHILD FROM THE 50TH PERCENTILE TO THE 70TH PERCENTILE IN **EARLY LITERACY AND NUMERACY.**

HUMANITIES-BASED MODEL

LEH's study found that much of the program's success stems from its grounding in humanities-based inquiry.

By framing each session around big questions—fairness, courage, friendship, problem-solving—the program creates rich opportunities for children to build language, critical thinking, empathy, and narrative competence.



PRIME TIME RECEIVED THE **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS 2025 AMERICAN PRIZE** FOR ITS "SIGNIFICANT AND MEASURABLE CONTRIBUTION TO INCREASING LITERACY LEVELS IN THE U.S."

SHORT-TERM PROGRAM, LASTING RESULTS

Established in 1991 by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH), Prime Time has proven its model over more than three decades of programming. Its distinctive approach strengthens the Home Literacy Environment for children by **reducing barriers for whole families to participate.**

By meeting over a short period, in public libraries trusted and used by families, and by providing a communal meal at each session, Prime Time meets families where they are to make attending **possible and practical.** The results are lasting.

Studies consistently demonstrate that children who participate in language-rich, relationship-centered early learning environments show improved outcomes well into adulthood, including **higher educational attainment, earnings, and civic participation.**



OUR NEXT CHAPTER

With two years of experience partnering with four public library sites, NJCH is primed to expand this program to at least one site in each county in New Jersey in the coming years.