



December, 2017

The early years
matter!



From Ready At Five's Executive Director Steven Hicks



Looking Forward to 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Years ago, an administrator stopped by my kindergarten classroom while on a site visit. He quickly scanned the room and my students – a room bubbling with robust activity and children fully engaged in learning – hesitant to enter, remarking aloud, "Oh, so this is the daycare."

Clearly, he didn't 'get it.'

The end of the year is a good time to celebrate how far we've come, and how our understanding of brain development and early learning has evolved over the last few years. That being said, there is work to be done. Last week, it was announced at the Maryland State Board of Education that the 2017 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment shows only 45% of our children enter kindergarten demonstrating the readiness skills needed for success. While that is a 2% increase from last year, I take that data as an urgent call to action.

[Read More Here](#)

Check Out Our Little Free Library!

Many poor families have fewer than 10 books at home, yet research shows that home library size has a very substantial effect on educational achievement. To meet the need for more books in homes for both children and adults, Ready At Five is now a Little Free Library Ambassador in a program sponsored by the [Baltimore Campaign for Grade Level Reading](#). Each month, Ready At Five will bring over 300 books and parent resources to the Little Free Library of the Fred B. Ledig Recreation Center. If you'd like to contribute any new or gently-used books for children and adults, you can send them to: Fred B. Ledig Recreation Center, 301 S Beechfield Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229 or drop them by the center and add them to the library!



Ready At Five Welcomes Three New ELC Members

We were thrilled to welcome three new members to our Executive Leadership Committee in 2017:

- Rebecca A. English, Esq., Head of Global Tax, CFO Group; Vice President, T. Rowe Price Group Inc.
- Taylor Graff, Head of Asset Allocation Research, Investment Solutions Group, Brown Advisory
- Brenda McChriston, Founder and CEO, Spectrum HR Solutions

Our Executive Leadership Committee (ELC) keeps us focused on our mission, shapes our agenda, and provides leadership to Ready At Five, while working closely with our steering and advisory committees.

Featured Resources



Maryland Educators - This One Is For You From First Book!

Promote Social And Emotional Learning (SEL) In Your Classroom With This

New Collection, Free Resources, And \$125 To Get What You Need!

Use This \$125 Credit To Purchase Anything In The [Healthy Feelings And Relationships Collection](#) For The Kids You Serve Thanks To The Generous Support Of The MSEA.

Use Code: MSEA125

Funding Is Available For First Book Members.

[Not A Member? Sign Up Now!](#)



School Readiness Symposium a Success!

Over 330 people attended Ready At Five's 40th School Readiness Symposium On December 14, 2017 at Turf Valley Conference Center. ***Equity in Literacy Must Start Early*** featured Dr. Nell K. Duke, Professor of Literacy, Language, and Culture in the Department of Educational Studies at the University of Michigan. Dr.

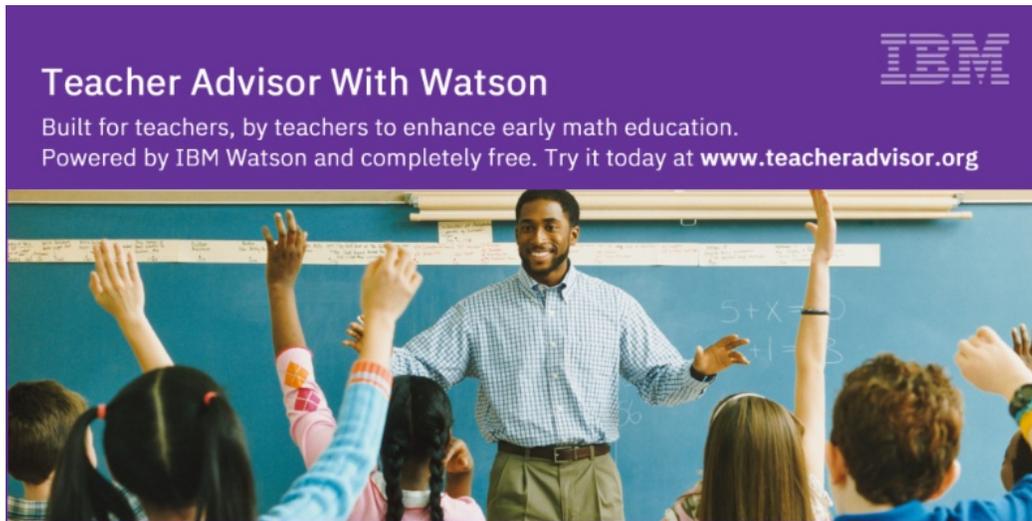
Duke spoke on the critical need to provide rich language and literacy experiences for children, beginning with infants and toddlers and extending through the early years, to ensure equitable opportunities later in school and in life. Participants enjoyed morning and afternoon breakout sessions and a lunchtime presentation on ***Goslings: Early Language and Literacy for Infants Born Prematurely***. Please [click here](#) to view the presentations from the day.

Try Teacher Advisor With Watson

Teacher Advisor With Watson is a 100% free, IBM Watson-enhanced instructional planning and support tool for K-5 math teachers. Developed in partnership with teachers and education experts across the United States over the past two years, Teacher Advisor is now fully available to help elementary math teachers save planning time, make more informed instructional decisions, and enhance their expertise. TeacherAdvisor.org uses IBM's Watson technology, which has been trained by leading math experts, to provide K-5 teachers with targeted recommendations: over 2,000 high-quality lesson plans, activities, proven teaching strategies, and videos, all specially chosen to meet teachers' needs. Teacher Advisor is a philanthropic initiative from the IBM Foundation, who collaborated closely with teachers, education leaders, and providers of best in class content to develop a robust platform to help educators reach young learners of all ability levels. Educators seeking to master new skills and/or find supplementary lessons and activities for students at varying skill levels, can use Teacher Advisor to:

- Type in a math concept or topic to quickly find, review, and download recommended resources
- Toggle between grades levels to see topic-aligned resources for learners above or below grade-level
- View standards alignment for a given lesson or activity (as well as review standards pre- and post-requisites)
- Learn about proven-effective teaching strategies and techniques that can help bring lessons to life

Teachers, instructional coaches, curriculum experts, and anyone else who's interested can sign up in about a minute at www.teacheradvisor.org.



Holiday Learning with ReadyRosie!

Winter Break can be a great opportunity to encourage families to learn together in the context of everyday life. This holiday season, ReadyRosie wants to support you as you support your students' families. They created this Holiday Learning flyer in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) for you to print and send home to your families over the holiday break. The time your students spend learning, talking, and playing with their families creates enduring memories. As educators, we know that these bonding moments build confidence, resilience, and a depth of background knowledge and higher-level thinking that extend into the academic areas you are working so hard to teach!



A Chance to Give

Help us as we work to ensure that all children in Maryland are given the gift of having

the foundational skills needed for success in school, career and life.

Please consider making your end-of-the-year tax deductible donation to Ready At Five. Federal ID number: 52-185161

[Donate Now](#)



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