

## LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL FAMILIES



## Letter from the Superintendent

### Welcome to the 2025-26 school year!

We're thrilled to begin another exciting year at Polk County Public Schools, where our commitment to student growth, academic achievement, and community collaboration continues to shine.

This is a time of celebration and momentum for our district. We're proud to share that PCPS recently earned a B grade from the Florida Department of Education — our first since the 2019–20 school year. This achievement reflects the hard work of our educators, students and families.

Across the district, 14 schools improved their individual grades, and our graduation rate climbed to 82%, marking another step forward in our mission to prepare students for success beyond the classroom. We also celebrated four National Merit Scholarship winners for 2024–25, a testament to the academic excellence thriving in our schools.

Our facilities continue to grow alongside our community. Elbert Elementary opened a brand-new campus this year, while Alta Vista Elementary relocated to the beautiful Scenic Terrace campus in Haines City. Last year we marked several milestones, including a middle school expansion at Bella Citta in Davenport, a new agriculture building at Lake Region High, and a gymnasium addition at McLaughlin Academy of Excellence.

Safety and accessibility remain top priorities. We launched the SafeStop program, which enhances enforcement against motorists who fail to stop for school buses. Additionally, our new mobile app helps parents track their students riding PCPS buses, offering peace of mind and improved communication.

Amid all this progress, literacy remains at the heart of our work. PCPS continues to move the needle in literacy, with students demonstrating growth in their classrooms every day through reading, writing, and thinking deeply about texts. This daily engagement is building stronger learners and thinkers across all grade levels.

We're also grateful for our ongoing partnership with Polk Vision, which allows us to collaborate with community stakeholders to address local challenges. One result of this partnership is the ninth edition of the Polk County Literacy Resource Directory — a guide designed to help families access tutoring services, educational websites, recommended books, literacy programs, and practical tips for supporting reading at home.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of the Literacy Resource Directory and discover valuable, free or low-cost resources available in your neighborhood. Here's to a successful and inspiring school year ahead!

Sincerely, Superintendent Fred Heid Polk County Public Schools

## **Literacy Team**

Lindsay Persohn, Ph.D., Chair University of South Florida

Gretchen Ceranic
United Way of Central Florida

**Reba Coil**Polk County Public Schools

Stacy Davis
Polk County Public Schools

Polk County Public Schools

Sheri Geiger Paper Pie

Francis Hadley
Hadley's Early Education

**Andrea Hagan** Heartland for Children

**Jessica Hart** UF|IFAS Extension

Craig Hosking Maximize Digital Media

**Terri Hubbard**Polk State College

Claudine Humber Florida Children's Museum

Marc Hutek, Ed.D.
Early Learning Coalition of Polk County

Lori Hutto, Ph.D. Warner University

**Cheryl Kelly**Early Learning Coalition of Polk County

**Jennifer Kovac**Polk County Library Cooperative

**Debra Metcalfe**Polk State College

Kris Newman-Lake, Ed.D. Cypress Junction Montessori

Amber Qureshi United Way of Central Florida

Gladys Roberts
Polk County Library Cooperative

**Ed Smith**Polk State College

Ruth Teets

United Way of Central Florida

Angela Wolowic

Polk County Public Schools

**Denice Wright** UF|IFAS Extension



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DISCLAIMER: The resources contained in this publication are made available free of fee and provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only. appearing in this publication does not constitute an endorsement or approval by Polk Vision or Polk County Public Schools of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporations, organizations or individuals. Contact the resource providers directly with any questions regarding services.

## How to Use this Guide

There's Nothing More Valuable Than Knowledge



**Tutoring** 

Test Prep | Computer Classes | After-School Tutoring



**Information** 

Technology Support | Library Events | Online Learning



**Activities** 

Story-Times | Events and Museums | School Holiday Camps





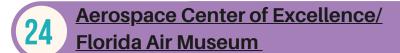




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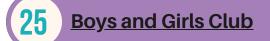




















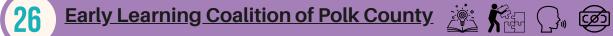




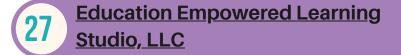














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Wilfred Smith Resource Center



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Cost



### **MAP OF RESOURCES**

### **Bartow**

- Education Empowered Learning Studio
- FDLRS Sunrise
- Polk County History Center
- UF/IFAS Books & Cooks

### Davenport

• Start Bright Tutoring LLC

### **Frostproof**

• P&P Helping Hand Foundation

### **Haines City**

GenCare Kids PPEC + Learning Center

### Lakeland

- Aerospace Center/Florida Air Museum
- Camp Fire Sunshine
- Central Florida Speech and Hearing
- Driven With A Purpose Academy, Inc.
- Early Learning Coalition of Polk County
- Florida Children's Museum
- GenCare Kids PPEC + Learning Center
- Girls Inc. of Lakeland
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- Huntington Learning Center
- Lakeland Institute for Learning
- <u>Learning Resource Center</u>
- LIFT Institute
- Mathnasium of Lakeland Highlands
- Medulla Resource Center
- · Mobile Classroom Solutions, Inc.
- Pace Center for Girls
- · Read Lakeland, Inc.
- Sylvan Learning Center
- · United Way of Central Florida
- Wabash Community Center
- YMCAReads!

### Mulberry

R.C.M.A. Child Development Center



### **Lake Wales**

- Family Literacy Academy of Lake Wales
- Lake Wales Literacy Council
- Lake Wales Little Theater
- Mary Norma Cambell Resource Center

### Winter Haven

- ABC Tutoring Service
- Cognitutor
- Early Learning Coalition of Polk County
- Eloise Resource Center
- · Girls Inc. of Winter Haven
- Kipe Academy Incorporated
- Polk County Sheriff's Crime Prevention
- Wilfred Smith Resource Center
- R.C.M. A. Child Development Center

### **County Wide**

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Boys and Girls Club
- Polk County Library Cooperative
- PCPS Early Childhood Learning
- PCPS Library Media Services
- Varsity Tutors



## Children's Rights to Read

- 1. Children have the basic human right to read.
- 2. Children have the right to access texts in print and digital formats.
- 3. Children have the right to choose what they read.
- 4. Children have the right to read texts that mirror their experiences and languages, provide windows into the lives of others, and open doors into our diverse world.
- 5. Children have the right to read for pleasure.
- 6. Children have the right to supportive reading environments with knowledgeable literacy partners.
- 7. Children have the right to extended time set aside for reading.
- 8. Children have the right to share what they learn through reading by collaborating with others locally and globally.
- Children have the right to read as a springboard for other forms of communication, such as writing, speaking, and visually representing.
- 10. Children have the right to benefit from the financial and material resources of governments, agencies, and organizations that support reading and reading instruction.

Pledge your support for these #RightsToRead:

www.literacyworldwide.org/rightstoread

















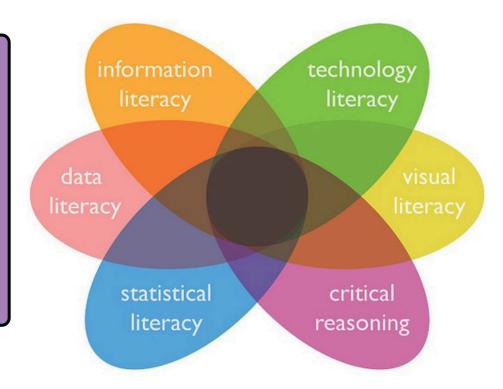




### **Types of Literacy**

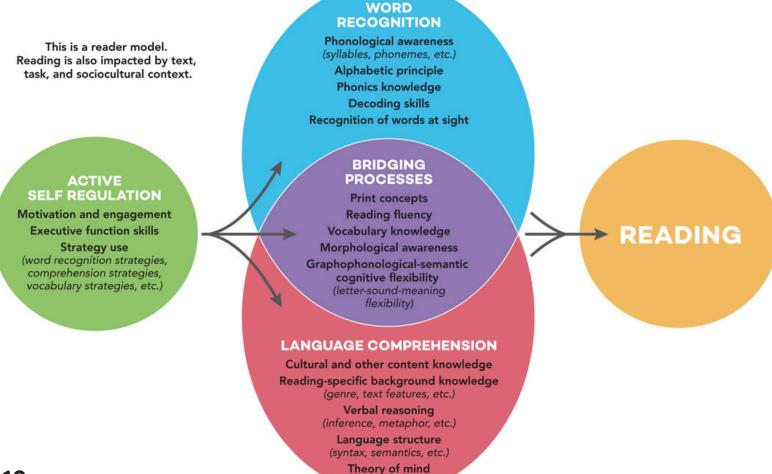
Literacy is an ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, compute, and communicate using visual, audible, and digital materials across disciplines and in any context; knowledge of a wide range of activities that appears as computer literacy, math literacy, or dietary literacy; ways of knowing the world.

https://u.osu.edu/writing/2021/02/17/literally-literate-how-the-idea-of-literacy-has-spread-beyond-the-act-of-writing/



### The Active View of Reading Model

Duke, N.K., & Cartwright, K.B. (2021). The Science of Reading Progresses: Communicating Advances Beyond the Simple View of Reading. Read Res Q, 56(S1), S25–S44. https://doi.org/10.1002/rrq.411







At Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County, our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible people. We believe in offering every child high-quality programs to make a lasting impact and provide members with the resources and experiences to increase academic success and inspire healthy lifestyles, all at no cost to the families whose children we serve.

## **Get in Touch**

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County Corporate Office** 301NE 5 St

Mulberry FL, 33860

863.686.1719 
 □ info@bgcpolk.org

Franchis Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County

O @bgcpolk

www.bgcpolk.org

### **Serving youth** from 9 locations!

### **Fort Meade Club**

10 3rd St SW Fort Meade, FL 33841 (863) 825 - 4488

### **George Jenkins Memorial Club**

2400 Havendale Blvd Winter Haven, FL 33881 (863) 967 - 6088

### James J. Musso Club

950 Pinewood Ave Lakeland, FL 33815 (863) 683 - 3371

### Joe L. Saunders Club

1860 E GibbonsSt Bartow, FL 33830 (863) 440 - 5988

### John L. Sanders Club

1525 Martin L King, Jr Ave Lakeland, FL 33805 (863) 686 - 0721

### **North Ridge Club**

704 Avenue C NW Haines City, FL 33844 (863) 422 - 7014

### **South Ridge Club**

315 Dr MLK Blvd Lake Wales, FL 33853 (863) 679 - 8582

### **Weinstein Family Club**

920 Lowry Ave Lakeland, FL 33801 (863) 665 - 3864

### Wogan S. Badcock, Jr Club

305 NE 1st Ave Mulberry, FL 33860 (863) 425 - 0130

### **WHO WE SERVE**

700+ youth enter the doors of a Club daily

97% youth from low-income households

**67%** youth from single-parent households

Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County served 5,129 youth in 2024!

All at no cost to the families we serve thanks to donors!





# GROW THEIR LOVE OF STEM!





Each Monday, our Skylab Innovation Center will be filled with engaging, hands-on learning for children 3 – 11 years of age!





### Classes for Pre-K through 5th Grade

Admission to the Florida Air Museum and the Destination: Aviation Playground is included in the class fee. An all-class bundle is available at a discounted rate.

Head to aceedu.org/programs/stem-sprouts/



### **REGISTRATION OPEN NOW**

Classes take place at the Florida Air Museum, Mondays from 9 am – 4 pm, starting in September!

Pre-registration is required as class sizes are limited.

## Join Us for

# STORYTIME

With ACE the Bookworm!



Tuesdays • 10 am At the Florida Air Museum

Join us in crafting captivating, interactive learning experiences for our Junior ACE's. Exploring the universe one adventure at a time!







**Welcome To Driven With A** Purpose Academy, Inc.

\*Empowering students to discover their purpose. ignite their drive, and transform their future as the driven, compassionate leaders the world needs now.\*



### About Us

Driven With A Purpose Academy, Inc. is an innovative micro school dedicated to serving students from K through 8th grade. Our mission is to combine academic excellence with a nurturing community to help every child thrive and unlock their full potential.

### Why Choose a Micro School Model?



Our micro school bridges the gap between traditional schooling and individualized education by:

Maintaining high academic standards.

Supporting the holistic development of each child.

Creating a collaborative, close-knit learning environment.

### **Our Unique Approach**

At Driven With A Purpose Academy, we focus

### Small Class Sizes:



Ensuring personalized attention and an intimate learning environment where students thrive.

### Personalized Learning:



Adapting our curriculum to each child's unique needs through one-on-one instruction, group activi ties, and hands-on experiences.

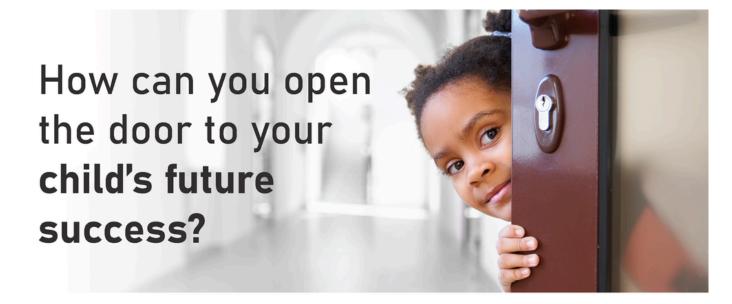
### Supportive Community:



Fostering a safe, nurturing space where students take risks, parents engage, and teachers collaborate to help every child grow.

Our micro school model bridges traditional education and individualized learning, nurturing the whole child with high academic ständards.





## Sign them up for VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten)! It's a FREE program for all 4-year-olds who live in Florida and it:

- Prepares them for kindergarten
- Helps develop their cognitive
   and social emotional skills
- Provides a solid foundation for entering kindergarten that will give them a sure advantage!

## Read just 20 minutes a day to your child and you will see them develop:

- · Better speech
- A greater vocabulary
- · An even greater imagination
- An appreciation for lifelong learning that will never stop!

Need help paying for the high cost of childcare? **We can help with that too!** Contact us today to see if you're eligible to receive financial assistance.

For more information on VPK or financial assistance with childcare, click or scan here:

**ELCPolk.org** 







### **EDUCATION EMPOWERED** LEARNING STUDIO

## Innovative Educational **Options**

Education Empowered Learning Studio provides innovative, supportive educational options for families seeking alternatives to traditional school.



### Home School Learning Pods

Our Homeschool Learning Pods for K-2nd and 3rd-5th grade students offer a well-rounded, nurturing educational experience. Each day builds strong skills in all core subjects while fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Students also enjoy social time and collaborative activities that strengthen friendships, communication, and confidence in a supportive community.



### Extracurricular Days

We offer an enriching extracurricular day for K-5th grade students, filled with hands-on activities that spark creativity and curiosity. Students explore the arts, express themselves through music and rhythm, enjoy movement and wellness activities, and dive into integrated STEAM challenges. The day also includes valuable social opportunities, fostering teamwork, friendship, and a strong sense of community — all in a fun, supportive environment



### Private Teaching

Our Private Teaching option offers a flexible, personalized alternative for families who want 1-2 days per week and shorter sessions (1–2 hours). Students can focus on specific subjects without a full weekly commitment, allowing extra support and enrichment that fits easily into family schedules.



## Little Scholars Program

Our Little Scholars program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and focuses on building a strong foundation in early literacy, math, science, and social studies through hands-on, play-based learning. We nurture curiosity, develop social skills, and encourage a love of learning in a warm, supportive environment that fosters independence and confidence.



### Kindergarten Prep Program

Our Kindergarten Prep program is tailored for older preschoolers and those preparing to enter kindergarten. This class emphasizes essential pre-K academic skills in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies, helping students build confidence and readiness for a smooth transition into kindergarten.



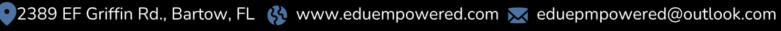
### Tutoring

Our tutoring services begin with a thorough diagnostic assessment to pinpoint each student's strengths and areas for growth. From there, we design an explicit, systematic approach tailored to their individual needs. This personalized support helps students build confidence, master foundational skills, and make meaningful progress at their own pace.



Scan the QR code to schedule a 15-minute phone consult or call 863-345-0059











ENROLL TODAY!

MON-FRI | 6AM - 6PM

PRESCRIBED
PEDIATRIC EXTENDED
CARE

GenCare Kids PPEC + Learning Center provides compassionate, specialized pediatric day care across Osceola, Polk, and Brevard counties.

We serve children with complex medical needs in a daycare setting through skilled nursing. Our centers offer a safe, nurturing environment that gives families peace of mind.

We partner with therapists to provide occupational, physical, speech, and ABA therapy, along with medication management, transportation, nutrition, and enriching educational activities.

### MORE INFORMATION

📞 1-888-425-7732 | 💹 <u>Msilva@gencarekids.com</u>

GenCareKids.com

Lakeland: 7405 US Hwy 98 N, FL 33809

📍 Haines City: 110 Patterson Rd, Ste 120-140, FL 33844





The LiFT Institute is Southeastern University's initiative to give back through innovative partnerships and programs that lift our community.

From financial stewardship to skill-building, LiFT bridges the gap—equipping individuals and organizations for lasting impact.

Learn more at liftinstitute.org.

### WE OFFER FREE FAITH-BASED FINANCIAL LITERACY

- K-12 after school curriculum
- Online, hybrid, and in-person courses for adults
- Personal Finance dual enrollment through SEU





www.liftinstitute.org



liftinstitute@seu.edu



Mobile

Classroom

MOBILE CLASSROOM









## We bring education to life—anytime, anywhere!

Educating the Student with Love!

Mobile Classroom Solutions provides personalized academic support, homeschool services, and innovative learning experiences for students of all abilities. We meet families where they are—virtually or in person—with love, flexibility, and purpose.



PEACE, LOVE, LITERACY,



Inspire a love of reading with affordable, engaging learning tools for children of all ages! From beautifully illustrated books to hands-on STEM kits, puzzles, and bilingual titles, we make learning fun and accessible for every family and classroom.

### WHY CHOOSE US

- Over 100 Spanish titles
- Accelerated Reader & Lexile-leveled books
- Matching grants & fundraiser options

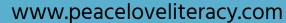
Let's build literacy togetherone book at a time.

## **SPARK LITERACY**

- Sheri Gieger, Educational Consultant
  - Serving Polk County & beyond











## CONFIDENCE STARTS HERE SUCCESS LASTS A LIFETIME



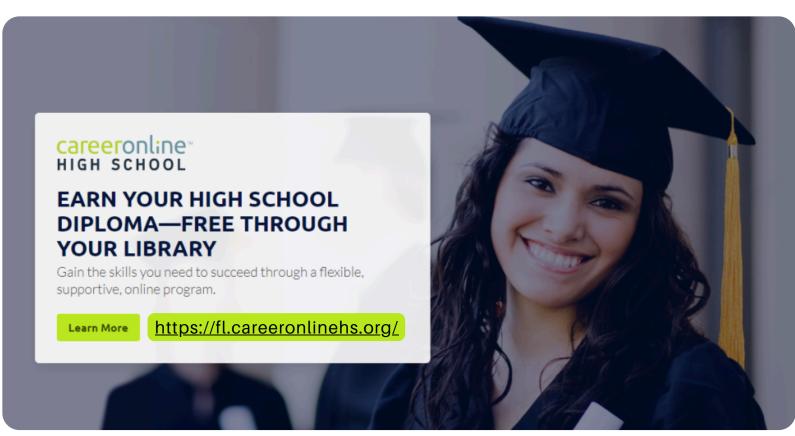
### **Tutoring That Works. Confidence That Grows.**

At Sylvan Learning of South Lakeland, we help students build confidence, spark their curiosity, and develop a lasting love of learning. Whether your child needs help with math, reading, writing, or test prep, our proven, personalized programs deliver real results—up to 3x more growth than peers. We also offer support for SAT/ACT, homework help, ASVAB, GED, GRE, and more. Scholarships welcome!



### Ready for more confidence and better grades?

Call now to schedule a skills assessment.
Unlock your child's potential.



# VPK - 5th grade students may qualify for a FREE athome reading program.

- Kids who qualify\* can receive free books and reading activities each month during the school year to help them strengthen literacy skills and nurture a lifelong love of reading.
- Students can choose books that match their interests, reading anything from adventures and comedies to fun facts about animals or nutrition.
- Books are available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and braille.

\*Not sure if your child is eligible? Learn more at newworldsreading.com.







## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

### Join us for FREE, FUN interactive classes for your little one and you!

### **CHILDREN UNDER 12 MONTHS**

Tuesday - Little Explorers Wednesday - Great Beginnings 9:00 to 9:45 am

### **CHILDREN AGE 1**

Thursday - Once Upon a Time 9:00 to 9:45 am

### **CHILDREN AGE 2**

Twos-Day 10:30 to 11:30 am Terrific Thursday 10:30 to 11:30 am

### **CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 5**

Marvelous Monday Wonderful Wednesday (Bilingual) Funday Friday 9:30 to 11:15 am

### **FAMILY SERVICES**

Free Notary
Free Tax Preparation
Mental Health First Aid Training
Free Developmental Screenings

### ADDITIONAL CLASSES

Down Syndrome Play Group, Birth - 5 Tuesdays, 12:00 - 12:45 pm

Autism Support Group, Last Friday, monthly

RARE Group, Special Needs Support, Second Monday, Monthly

New Parent Support Group

Infant/Toddler Sign Language

Infant Massage



Phone: 863-648-1500 x294 Email: resourcecenter@uwcf.org 650 Bonnet Springs Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33815

To learn more and pre-register, visit uwcf.org/resourcecenter





### **ABC TUTORING SERVICE**







863-293-6172



lyndatutors1@gmail.com



http://abctutoringservice.com/

Contact: Lynda McCartney, Owner

Address: 1690 Dundee Rd., Winter Haven, FL 33884 | 218

Palmetto St, Auburndale, FL 33823

Tutoring Hours: Monday - Friday: 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm Office Hours: Monday - Friday: Noon - 8:30 pm

ABC Tutoring has been professionally tutoring students for the past 20 years. We work with students from PreK-Adult in all subject areas, including reading remediation, reading comprehension, spelling, writing, language arts/grammar, math, science, history, college-level courses, and test prep. We work with students who have special learning challenges such as ADD/ADHD, dyslexia, auditory processing disorder, Autism, and speech/language disorders, and we help our advanced and gifted students students succeed!

### **AEROSPACE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE** FLORIDA AIR MUSEUM













863-644-2431



educate@flysnf.org



https://floridaairmuseum.org/visit/events/storytime/

Contact: Eric Crump, Vice President

Address: 4075 James C Ray Dr., Lakeland, FL 33811 Hours of Operation: Storytime is 10:00 am every Tuesday

Come join us as we bring stories to life and create amazing, interactive learning experiences for our Junior ACE's exploring the universe, one adventure at a time! All are welcome. Content is targeted for our young ones, ages 2-5. Storytime is FREE. Access to the Florida Air Museum is an additional charge.

For more information, please refer to pages 12 and 13 in this directory.

### **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF TAMPA BAY**

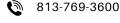














info@bbbstampabay.org



https://www.bbbstampabay.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a nonprofit organization that creates and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships between caring adult volunteers and youth to help them reach their full potential. Through consistent, positive interactions, BBBS helps children build confidence, improve school performance, and develop strong, supportive relationships. Families can enroll their children to be matched with a mentor who meets with them regularly for fun, goal-oriented activities. BBBS is free for families and available in communities across Polk County.













### **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

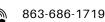
















Contact: Ashely Ray, Vice President of Development

Address: PO Box 763, Lakeland, FL 33802

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

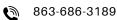
Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County believe in offering high-quality programs to make a lasting impact and provide members with the resources and experiences to increase academic success, increase the likelihood of high school graduation, and improve healthy lifestyles. Programs engage members in six core values: Academics, Health & Wellness, Sports, The Arts, Character & Leadership, and Workforce Readiness.

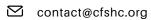
For sites, schedules, and schools served by our programs please refer to page 11 of this directory.

### CENTRAL FLORIDA SPEECH AND HEARING











Contact: Laura Allen, Director of Speech-Language Pathology Address: 3020 Lakeland Highlands Road, Lakeland, FL 33803

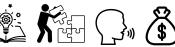
**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

### CAMP FIRE SUNSHINE









**Camp Fire** 



863-688-5491



ashleyr@campfire-sunshine.org



www.campfire-sunshine.org

Contact: Ashley Roberts, Executive Director Address: 2600 Buckingham Ave. Lakeland, 33803

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Summer Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Camp Fire Sunshine provides opportunities for youth to discover who they are now as they uncover and explore their personal "sparks" while building confidence in their abilities. Camp Fire provides all youth with a non-judgmental venue where they can feel physically and emotionally safe to be "who they are."

Camp Fire gives youth personal choice as they select from a wide variety of age-appropriate activities and programs. Camp Fire offers a science-based, after-school academic enrichment program called STEAM Team, where students receive homework assistance, reading and math help, and science-based activities.



The Center offers speech-language evaluations and individualized therapy sessions. Children with speech and language disorders often exhibit delayed reading abilities. Supporting a child's speech and language development provides a foundation for literacy and supports academic success.













### COGNITUTOR, LLC













813-789-7441

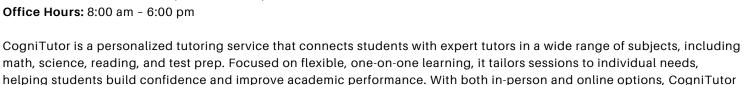


support@cognitutor.com



http://www.cognitutor.com/get-a-tutor/

Contact: Amber Maccione, Executive Administrator Address: 325 Sand Pine Trail, Winter Haven, FL 33880



supports K-12 and college students, offering customized lesson plans and progress tracking to ensure consistent growth. Our

### **DRIVEN WITH A PURPOSE** ACADEMY, INC.

tutors come to you based on your availability.











863-660-9520



dwapacademy@gmail.com



www.dwapacademy.com

Contact: Dr. Alonzo Williams Jr. (Founder/CEO)

Address: 401 South Florida Avenue Lakeland, FL 33801

**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Friday: 8:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Driven With A Purpose Academy, Inc. serves K-8 students by providing engaging, hands-on STEM learning activities that spark curiosity and deepen understanding. We emphasize an interdisciplinary approach, enriching language arts and math instruction through creative, project-based experiences. Our programs are designed to help students make real-world connections, build problem-solving skills, and develop a lifelong love of learning. By integrating STEM with core subjects, we ensure that learners not only master academic fundamentals but also gain the critical thinking and collaboration skills needed for future success. Every child's growth and potential come first

For more information, please refer to page 14.

EARLY LEARNING COALITION





OF POLK COUNTY





CogniTutor



863-220-1931



belindakramer@elcpolk.org



www.elcpolk.org/



Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Early Learning Coalition of Polk County is a non-profit agency focused on quality early education and childcare. It is also a state-designated agency that helps families of preschool children by offering resources and referrals to agencies that can provide assistance based on the child's individual needs. Additionally, the Coalition's School Readiness Program provides subsidized childcare to eligible families while providing at-risk children access to high quality early education to help prepare them for success in school. The free Voluntary PreKindergarten Program (VPK), helps early learners build a strong foundation for kindergarten and beyond.

For more information, please refer to page 15.















### **EDUCATION EMPOWERED LEARNING STUDIO, LLC**









863-345-0059



eduempowered@outlook.com



www.eduempowered.com

**Contact:** Kelly DeAngelis-Tyre, Founder Address: 2389 EF Griffin Rd., Bartow, FL 33830

Hours of Operation: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 5:30 pm



Education Empowered Learning Studio provides innovative, supportive educational options for families seeking alternatives to traditional school. Our Homeschool Learning Pods for K-2nd and 3rd-5th grade students cover all core academic subjects in small, nurturing groups. We offer an extracurricular day with hands-on activities in the arts, music, movement and wellness, integrated STEAM exploration, and social opportunities for K-5th grade students. Our Little Scholars program (ages 3-5) and Kindergarten Prep class foster early learning. Flexible private teaching and one-on-one tutoring are available for K-12 students. We proudly empower every learner's journey as Step Up for Students providers.

For more information, please refer to page 16.

### **ELOISE RESOURCE CENTER**









863-298-4485



IsraelRubalcava@polk-county.net



https://www.polk-county.net/things-todo/parks-and-recreation/resourcecenters/johnny-and-freda-brooks-eloise-eloise/

Contact: Israel Rubalcava, Recreation Coordinator Address: 710 Snively Ave., Eloise, FL 33880

**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Johnny and Freda Brooks Eloise Resource Center provides a FREE after school program for elementary (K -5th grade) students. Family events, classes, and activities are offered year-round, including a Hispanic Heritage Festival, Valentine's Dance, and a Halloween event.

### **FAMILY LITERACY** ACADEMY AT LAKE WALES











863-604-8012



demingcowles@aol.com



https://flalw.plannedgiving.org/

**Contact:** Deming Cowles

Address: 31 Oak Street, Babson Park, FL, 33827

**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday & Thursday: 5:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Free GED/ESOL at Mary Norma Campbell Center

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 am - Noon Free GED/ ESOL at Mary Norma Campbell Center Free childcare is provided for parents attending

The Family Literacy Academy works with families to become lifelong learners. Social workers help families with issues that prevent them from providing a language rich home. The Academy serves parents with children between 1 month and 10 years old where one parent is in need of his/her GED (high school diploma) or wants to learn English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Parenting and life-skill classes are also provided. The Academy serves Lake Wales and the surrounding area.













### FDLRS SUNRISE









863-535-6486 (Fax: 863-534-0296)



poinsetta.tillman@polk-fl.net



https://www.fdlrs-sunrise.com/

Contact: Dr. Poinsetta Tillman, Ed.S., Director Address: 1860 Ken Riley Way Bartow, FL 33830

**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), an IDEA-Funded State Project of the Florida Department of Education, supports Special Education programs statewide. FDLRS Associate Centers offer services in four key areas: Child Find, Parent Services, Human Resource Development, and Technology. FDLRS centers collaborate with school districts, agencies, and stakeholders to support students with disabilities or exceptionalities. FDLRS also supports the implementation of the BEESS Portal to Professional Learning Alternatives (PLA), which provides online courses for Florida teachers. These courses enhance educators' skills in exceptional student education, ensuring accessible, high-quality professional development opportunities across all Florida school districts.

### FLORIDA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM









863-687-3869

 $\boxtimes$ 

Jward@explorefcm.org



https://explorefcm.org

Contact: Julie Ward, Chief Learning Officer

Address: Bonnet Springs Park

600 Bonnet Springs Blvd., Lakeland, FL 33815

**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Florida Children's Museum curates the world for ALL children to explore! Literacy starts with language. Florida Children's Museum builds language through playful learning in exhibits and programs for children ages birth to age 12 by providing fun literacy learning activities as part of daily programming with general admission and/or museum membership. In cooperation with our community partners, Polk County residents can check out a Library Cultural Pass at any public library in Polk County then present it to receive free museum admission for one full day. Educational components are incorporated into hands-on museum exhibits and in a literacy summer camp for students entering or exiting kindergarten. Come explore indoor and outdoor exhibits and plan to participate in an educator-directed program!



Want to be featured in our next directory edition? Email us at info@polkvision.com!













### **GENCARE KIDS PPEC + LEARNING CENTER**









888-425-7732

 $\boxtimes$ 

info@gencarekids.com | nhernandez@gencareresources.com | msilva@gencarekids.com



https://www.gencarekids.com/ X (Twitter) @gencarekidsppec

Contact: Nicolette Hernandez

Address: 7405 US Hwy 98 N, Lakeland, FL 33809

110 Patterson Rd, Ste. 120-140, Haines City, FL 33844

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 6:00 am - 6:00 pm

GenCare Kids PPEC + Learning Center proudly serves Osceola, Polk, and Brevard counties with compassionate, specialized pediatric care. Our centers offer skilled nursing, therapies (OT/PT/ST), medication management, transportation, nutrition, and educational activities for children with complex medical needs. We provide a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment that allows families peace of mind.

For more information, please refer to page 17 in this directory.

### **GIRLS INC. OF LAKELAND**









863-682-3002



kayfields@girlsinclakeland.com



http://www.girlsinclakeland.com/

Contact: Kay Fields, President & CEO

Addresses: 1220 W. Highland St., Lakeland, FL 33815

**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Friday: 2:00 pm - 5:45 pm

School Holiday & Summer Camp Hours: 7:30 am - 5:45 pm

Girls Inc. of Lakeland provides academic enrichment, character, and youth development programs exclusively for girls in grades K-12 in West Polk County during the school year and 1st to 12th during the summer. The girls take part in homework help and sustained silent reading every day. School Pick-Up (space is limited): Blake Academy, Lincoln Academy, North Lakeland Elem., Lawton Chiles Academy, Rochelle School of the Arts, Winston Academy, Jesse Keen Elem., South McKeel, McKeel Central, Lakeland High School, McKeel Academy, Harrison School for the Arts

### **GIRLS INC. OF WINTER HAVEN**







**6** 

863-967-2874

abla

peggy@girlsincwinterhaven.org



www.girlsincwinterhaven.org

**Contact:** Peggy Threlkel, Executive Director

Address: 2400 Havendale Blvd. NW, Winter Haven, FL

33881

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7285 Winter Haven, FL 33883

**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Friday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

School Holidays and Summer: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

We provide vital out-of-school enrichment activities to girls in kindergarten through middle school. Our activities are designed to help girls develop academically, socially, and emotionally. Literacy is a weekly focus in our structured program time. In addition, girls are offered homework assistance. We also conduct literacy activities during our summer program. The primary service areas are Winter Haven, Auburndale, and Lake Alfred; however, other Eastern Polk County cities are included. Currently have 6 after-school pick-up locations.













### **GRADEPOWER LEARNING**







863-279-0564



lakelandfl@gradepowerlearning.com



https://gradepowerlearning.com/locations/lakeland-tutoring/

Contact: Kenneth Haskins, Owner and Center Director Address: 4525 S Florida Ave STE 19, Lakeland, FL 33813

Hours of Operation: Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 7:00 pm | Friday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

GradePower Learning goes beyond tutoring, building cognitive and academic skills in addition to tutoring reading, writing, and math. We coach K-12 students on how to learn, not just what to learn, building active minds and excited learners. In addition to K-12 tutoring, we provide SAT/ACT prep, and also have a Homeschool Day Academy. Our Day Academy is a homeschool support program, leveraging our cognitive learning approach, but customized for homeschooling families. We're also a direct provider for SUFS and AAA. We are a long-term solution to education, ensuring you never need tutoring again after being in our program.

### **HUNTINGTON LEARNING CENTER**











863-709-9600



lakelandfl@hlcmail.com



https://huntingtonhelps.com/center/lakeland-south

Contact: Kristi Anderson, Executive Director

Address: Shoppes of Christina, 6655 South Florida Ave.,

Lakeland, FL 33813 **Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Friday: 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Saturday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Huntington provides a comprehensive academic evaluation and personalized tutoring programs to build reading and academic skills. Huntington also hosts a free summer reading program and free workshops for parents and educators. Resources and support available for ESOL students.

### KIPE ACADEMY INCORPORATED

GRAD POW











863-225-3418



info@kipeacademy.org



www.kipeacademy.org

Contact: Tonya Kipe, Executive Director

Address: 1800 Cypress Gardens Blvd. Winter Haven, Fl. 33868

**Fall Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Kipe Academy offers support to both traditional school and homeschool families. We offer a flexible learning environment that focuses on topics that students are interested in. We offer full-time private tutoring for students in K- 5th grade. We have part-time private tutoring available for students in K-12th grade. Once a month, we host a science-themed Weekend Workshop that is open to all kindergarten to 8th grade students. We also support families that need assistance with homeschooling and provide an Umbrella School Program. Kipe Academy is an approved provider with Step Up For Students.













### **LAKELAND INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING**











863-255-1263



arivera@lifl.org



www.lifl.org

Contact: Adrianna Rivera, Officer of Admissions Address: 2020 Crystal Grove Drive Lakeland, FL 33801

The Lakeland Institute for Learning (LIFL) is a service-based school for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) scholars who may also be English Language Learners (ELL). Our purpose is to facilitate access to behavioral, speech, and tutoring

services within the educational setting; encourage well-being;

and maximize academic growth.

### LAKE WALES LITERACY COUNCIL











863-676-6678 Ext 1208



mary.felix@lwcarecenter.com



https://lakewalescarecenter.com/programs/

Contact: Mary Felix, Program Coordinator

Address: 140 E. Park Avenue, Lake Wales FL 33853

Hours of Operation: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am - 11:00 am

The mission of the Lake Wales Literacy Council is to improve the literacy of adults so that they may be more productive citizens in the Lake Wales community. Services are provided through one-on-one tutoring and small group instruction by trained volunteer instructors.

**ESOL** (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

### **LAKE WALES LITTLE THEATRE**









863-676-1266



lwlt.media@gmail.com



https://www.lwlt.org/

Address: 411 N. Third Street, Lake Wales, FL 33853

Hours of Operation: Box Office: Wednesday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Lake Wales Little Theatre (LWLT) has been providing highquality, live entertainment to Lake Wales and east Polk County for over forty years. Our offerings include recent hits and old favorites, and we frequently offer new plays never before produced. LWLT is a non-profit organization solely funded by donations and ticket sales. The 2025-2026 Season 48 offers 4 shows: Children's, 2 Adult, and Teen.

### 2025-2026 Show Runs

- Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 PM
- Sundays at 2 PM
- Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure | Sept 19-28
- Daddy's Dyin'...Who's Got the Will? | Nov 7-16
- Unnecessary Farce | January 30-February 8
- Teen Production | June 5-14













### **LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**













863-688-9477

pamelac@lrcpolk.com



www.lrcpolk.com

Contact: Pamela Craven, Ph.D., Executive Director

Address: 1628 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803

**Hours of Operation** 

Monday - Thursday: 7:00 am - 5:30 pm

Friday: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

LRC helps students, pre-K through adult, maximize their learning potential by providing personalized, educational programs, consultative services for parents, and programs for community needs.

### Services include:

- 1-to-1 Tutoring (math, reading, and writing)
- Test Prep (ACT and PSAT/SAT)
- Study Habits of Successful Students
- Summer programs
- Professional Development for Teachers

### **LIFT INSTITUTE**







liftinstitute@seu.edu



www.liftinstitute.org

Contact: Sara Beth Wyatt, Executive Director

Address: 1000 Longfellow Blvd. Lakeland, FL 33801

Available Programs: Managing Our Money for God's Glory (Students in Grades K-12) and Faithful Financial Living (Adult Students). These programs are 10-12 week long and lessons are 90 minutes or less. Digital and physical copies are available.

For more information, please refer to page 18 in this directory.



### MARY NORMA CAMPBELL RESOURCE CENTER





863-679-4335



Kasiewade@polk-county.net

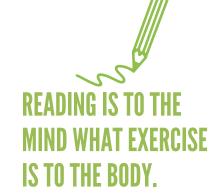


https://www.polk-county.net/things-to-do/parks-andrecreation/resource-centers/mary-norma-campbell-lake-wales/

Contact: Kasie Wade, Recreation Coordinator Address: 2226 Karen St., Lake Wales, FL 33898

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Mary Norma Campbell Resource Center provides a FREE after-school program for elementary students in K-5th and GED classes for adults. Family events, classes, and activities are offered year-round.



-Richard Steele















### **MATHNASIUM OF** LAKELAND HIGHLANDS









863-602-6050



lakelandhighlands@mathnasium.com



https://www.mathnasium.com/mathcenters/lakelandhighlands/

Contact: Tim Sabo, Center Director

Address: 4758 S Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL, 33813

**Hours of Operation:** 

Sunday: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Monday - Thursday: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Closed Friday and Saturday

We provide personalized math instruction (1:3 ratio) for students through grade 12, with support for some college-level math. We also offer free math assessments where students receive a professional evaluation and a customized learning plan. These events can be hosted by us or in partnership with local schools and organizations. Whether or not they choose to enroll in our tutoring services, students and parents will gain valuable insights into strengthening math fundamentals and succeeding in their current or future math courses.

### **MOBILE CLASSROOM SOLUTIONS, INC.**









863-510-7357



info@mobileclassroomsolutions.com jennifer.palmer@mobileclassroomsolutions.com



https://mobileclassroomsolutions.com

Contact: Jennifer Palmer, Founder & Chief Executive Officer Address: 1027 E County Road 540a, Lakeland, FL 33813

Hours of Operation: Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 7:30 pm | Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Mobile Classroom Solutions provides high-quality therapeutic educational products and services to students with special needs, students that are English LanguageLlearners, and students that want to exceed their academic potential! We specialize in educational consulting and academic services, from Full-Time and Part-Time Homeschool Programs, to supplemental supports, including after-school Tutoring, IEP Training, IEP Development, Student Advocacy, Parent Training, Educational Consulting, Lesson Planning, Standardized Assessments, Vocational Skills, and Test Preparation. We offer summer enrichment programs and social outings throughout the year to encourage families to build our community.

For more information, please refer to page 19 in this directory.







MEDULLA RESOURCE CENTER



863-647-4035



jennacarver@polk-county.net



https://www.polk-county.net/things-to-do/parks-andrecreation/resource-centers/medulla-lakeland/

Contact: Jenna Carver

Address: 1049 Parker Road, Lakeland FL 33811

**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Medulla Resource center offers monthly programs for all age groups including senior fellowship and toddler enrichment programs. The center also offers a free afterschool program for children in K-5th grade (space is limited). Holiday themed and special interest events are also planned throughout the year.















### **P&P HELPING HAND FOUNDATION**





877-658-5638



info@pphelpinghand.com



www.pphelpinghand.com

Contact: Audrey Clarke, Board Chair

Address: 245 Hopson Rd, Frostproof FL 33843



P&P Helping Hand Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit, provides resources and empowers underserved communities through educational, literacy, and community programs, one helping hand at a time. Through our summer reading program, we strive to educate and prepare tomorrow's leaders through tutoring and leadership development programs. Through our Community Christmas events, we provide food, clothing, and other household items for those in need. We also provide annual scholarships and Back-to-School Book Bag giveaways.

### PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS











863-688-5596 Ext. 5516



Jesilynn.Pfeffer@Pacecenter.org



https://www.pacecenter.org/locations/florida/polk

Contact: Jesilynn Pfeffer, Social Services Coordinator Address: 213 Tyler Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33801 Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Available via phone until 4:00 pm

Pace provides academic education through daily instruction and individual education plans taught by certified teachers. Middle and High School girls attend Pace to get appropriate counseling and education in a nurturing environment. Spanish-speaking staff available.

### **POLK COUNTY HISTORY CENTER**











jaymejamison@polk-county.net



https://www.polk-county.net/things-to-do/history-center/

Contact: Jayme Jamison, Curator of Education and Visitor Engagement

Address: 100 E. Main St., Bartow, FL 33830

Hours of Operation: Tuesday - Saturday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The history center supports adult and student literacy by featuring text-rich exhibits, lecture series promoting historical topics paired with books and articles, curriculum-based educational programs, downloadable standardsbased curriculum, and a historical and genealogical research library.

"The whole world 🧆 opened up to me when I learned to read." - Mary McLeod Bethune













### **POLK COUNTY LIBRARY COOPERATIVE**











863-519-8524



j.kovac@mypclc.info



https://mypclc.org/client/en\_US/mypclc

Contact: Jennifer Kovac

The Polk County Library Cooperative was formed in 1997 to provide free, convenient, accessible library services to all residents of Polk County. One library card provides access to all 15 public libraries, including Special Collection libraries: Polk County Law Library (in the Polk County Courthouse, Bartow) & Historical & Genealogical Library (located in the History Center).

For more PCLC schedules and services, please see pages 40-42 of this directory.



### **POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING**











863-648-3051



https://www.polkschoolsfl.com/schoolsandprograms/earlychildhood

Polk County Public Schools' early childhood learning programs are designed to support all families as they take their critical first steps in planning their child's education. PCPS offers multiple options tailored to your child's needs.

### POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS













863-298-6200



Llott@polksheriff.org | crimeprevention@polksheriff.org



http://www.polksheriff.org/programs-services

Contact: Lekeyia Lott, MS | CPM, Crime Prevention Administrator | Communications

Polk County Sheriff's Office: 1891 Jim Keene Blvd. Winter Haven, FL 33880

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

A variety of programs and services are offered to keep our citizens safe, including Women's Self- Defense, Neighborhood Watch, Internet Safety, and Business Watch. Other courses such as Active Shooter Training and Teen Driver Challenge are available as well.













### **POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES**



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stacy.davis@polk-fl.net



https://www.polkschoolsfl.com/studentsandparents/library

Contact: Stacy Davis, Director, Library Media Services

Check with your child's school for any tutoring services or resources they may provide!

For more information about specific programs, please refer to page 43 in this directory.

### READ LAKELAND, INC.





863-802-1512



beth.hesseltine@readlakeland.com iREAD@readlakeland.com



https://readlakeland.com/

Contact: Beth Hesseltine, Executive Director Diana Oropeza, Program Coordinator Address: 1628 S. Florida Ave. Lakeland, FL 33803 Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm



Founded in 1995, READ Lakeland, Inc is dedicated to improving the quality of life in our community through teaching basic literacy skills to adult nonreaders and promoting adult literacy. We offer one-to-one tutoring and small group instruction to an estimated 24% of adults in Lakeland who are functioning at the lowest levels of literacy. READ Lakeland helps those who cannot read medical instructions, fill out an employment application, or read a simple story to a child. With over 100 volunteers, we offer FREE tutoring and services to those wanting to improve their skills. We are here to help. Contact us today!

### REDLAND CHRISTIAN MIGRANT ASSOCIATION CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER





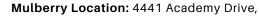
863-425-9246



mulberry@rcma.org



https://rcma.org/center/rcma-mulberry-cdc/



Mulberry FL, 33860

Hours of Operation: 6:30 am - 5:00 pm

863-295-5917



wahneta@rcma.org



https://rcma.org/center/rcma-wahneta-cdc/

Wahneta Location: 1920 Gerber Dairy Rd.,

Winter Haven FL, 33880

We make the dreams of children in migrant farm-working and low-income families our focus. That means making sure anything that impacts their learning is taken care of. From early childhood education to health care assistance to supplying WiFi hotspots and tablets for homework, we take a holistic approach that cares for the entire child - including a helping hand for their parents.













#### START BRIGHT TUTORING LLC















407-361-8835



www.startbrightutoring.org



themobileclassroom@startbrightutoring.org

Contact: Valeria Oquendo, Owner & Manager Address: Mobile services around Davenport

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Start Bright is Davenport, Florida's only mobile classroom providing individualized reading instruction for struggling K-5 readers. Rooted in the Science of Reading, we've helped over 80 students make significant progress. We empower families to advocate for their children through tailored consultations. Currently, we serve homeschool families with mini-pods, direct instruction, and personalized guidance. Our learning environment is joyful and stigma-free, focusing on life skills, community, emotions, creativity, math, reading, and science. We also host monthly field trips and park meet-ups to enrich the learning experience and build lasting connections. Start Bright brings the heart of learning home.

#### **UF/IFAS BOOKS & COOKS**







booksandcooks@ifas.ufl.edu





863-519-1041



https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/lab/books-and-cooks/

Address: 1702 Hwy 17 South, Bartow, FL 33830

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

#### SYLVAN LEARNING CENTER











863-588-0020

lakeland.fl@sylvanlearning.com



https://www.sylvanlearning.com/locations/us/fl/lakelandtutoring/south-lakeland/

Contact: Deena Porter, Owner & Executive Director

Address: 3730 Cleveland Heights Blvd. #3, Lakeland, FL 33803

#### **Hours of Operation:**

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Friday by appointment only | Saturday: 9:00 am - Noon

At Sylvan Learning of South Lakeland, we're focused on building academic confidence, igniting intellectual curiosity, and inspiring a love for learning - all of which make a big impact in school and in life. From math tutoring to reading and writing tutoring, we can help your child build confidence, become eager to learn and see real results in the classroom. Our personalized tutoring is tailored to your child's specific needs to achieve the best results. In fact, Sylvan students achieve up to 3x more growth in their math and reading scores than their peers. Sylvan also offers SAT/ACT Prep, Homework Support, ASVAB, GED, GRE and more! We service students pre-K - adult and we welcome scholarships!

For more information, please refer to page 21 in this directory.



For more information about a UF reading program for students in K-5th, please refer to page 22 of this directory.

Books & Cooks is a FREE 7-week literacy and nutrition program. Weekly sessions help families support enjoyment of reading, healthy eating, and family connection through fun, hands-on activities. Each week, participating families receive a book, childcare, dinner, and groceries for FREE! Participants will share their experiences as part of a research study to measure the impact of Books & Cooks. Any family with a child in kindergarten-5th grade can apply, but priority for enrollment will be given to New Worlds Reading families. See page 40 for information on how to sign up for New Worlds Reading.













#### **UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**





863-648-1500 Ext 248



gretchen.ceranic@uwcf.org



www.uwcf.org

#### ReadingPals Early Literacy Initiative

Phone: 863-648-1500 x245
Email: carolyn.burnett@uwcf.org
Website: https://uwcf.org/readingpals/

#### **Master Teacher Early Literacy Initiative**

Website: <a href="https://uwcf.org/master-teachers/">https://uwcf.org/master-teachers/</a>

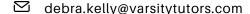
#### Success By 6

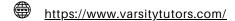
Contact: Gretchen Ceranic, Director Email: gretchen.ceranic@uwcf.org <a href="https://uwcf.org/success-by-6/">https://uwcf.org/success-by-6/</a>

#### **VARSITY TUTORS**



**(**) 863-413-6870





Contact: Debra Kelly, Customer Success Manager for Polk

Schools

Address: 8001 Forsyth Blvd, Ste 1050, Clayton MO 63105 Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm

Varsity Tutors, a Nerdy company, is a leading platform for live online learning. It connects Polk students with expert instructors for personalized tutoring, small group classes, and self-study resources across a wide range of subjects and grade levels. The platform uses adaptive assessments to deliver tailored learning experiences. Services include academic tutoring, test prep, enrichment programs, and support for all Polk Public K-12 schools. Tutors empower learners to reach their goals through engaging, high-quality instruction delivered in a virtual environment.



#### Carol Jenkins Barnett United Way Children's Resource Center

Location: 650 Bonnet Springs Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33815

Phone: 863-648-1500 x294 Email: resourcecenter@uwcf.org

Website: <a href="https://uwcf.org/resourcecenter/">https://uwcf.org/resourcecenter/</a>

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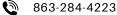
Phone: Call 211 or text your zip code to 898-211

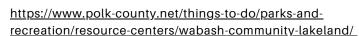
• Website: <a href="https://uwcf.org/find-help/">https://uwcf.org/find-help/</a>

For more information, please refer to page 23 in this directory.

#### **WABASH COMMUNITY CENTER**







Contact: Stephen Osborne, Recreation Coordinator Address: 1230 Southern Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815 Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wabash Community Center offers a free afterschool program for children in K-5th grade (space is limited). The center is also host to a fellowship dining program offered through our partners, You Thrive FL. Holiday themed and special interest events are also planned throughout the year.













#### WILFRED SMITH RESOURCE CENTER









863-298-7898



Porchiamorris@polk-county.net | virginalawrence@polk-county.net



https://www.polk-county.net/things-to-do/parks-and-recreation/resourcecenters/wilfred-smith-community-winter-haven/

Contact: Porchia Morris | Virginia Lawrence Address: 135 Ave Y NE, Winter Haven, FL 33881

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Wilfred Smith Resource Center provides a FREE after school program for elementary (K-5th grade) students. Family events include the Battle of the bricks, Family paint night, Mothers Day Pamper and Play.



#### **YMCA READS!**











863-267-9622, option 3, ext. 406



dorene.walter@ymcawcf.org



www.ymcawcf.org

Contact: Dorene Walter, Program Coordinator Address: 2125 Sleepy Hill Road, Lakeland FL 33810

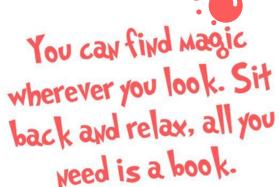
Hours of Operation: During the school year | 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Hours vary during the summer

YMCA Reads! provides targeted reading tutoring to students at Winston Academy of Engineering in grades K-4 during the school year, and is open to all students' grades K-3 in the community during the summer. YMCA Reads is a FREE program for students with a documented need for supplemental reading instruction.



























## SPECIAL LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Polk County Historical & Genealogical Library
100 E Main St, 863.534.4380

<u>Stephen H Grimes Law Library</u> 255 N Broadway Ave, 863.534.4013

#### PUBLIC LIBRARIES

#### Auburndale Public Library

100 West Bridgers Ave 863.965.5548

#### **Bartow Public Library**

2150 S Broadway Ave 863.534.0131

#### **Dundee Public Library**

202 E Main St 863.439.9424

#### **Eagle Lake Public Library**

75 North 7th St 863.293.2914

#### **Fort Meade Public Library**

75 E Broadway St 863.285.8287

#### <u>Frostproof</u> Latt Maxcy Memorial Library

15 Magnolia Ave 863.635.7857

#### **Haines City Public Library**

111 N 6th St 863.421.3633

#### Lake Alfred Public Library

245 N Seminole Ave 863.291.5378

#### **Lakeland Public Library**

#### **Main Branch**

100 Lake Morton Dr. 863.834.4280

#### **Kelly Branch**

Kelly Recreation Center 404 Imperial Blvd, 863.834.4286

#### **Larry R Jackson Library**

North Lakeland

1700 N Florida Ave, 863.834.4288

#### Lake Wales Public Library

290 Cypress Garden Lane 863.678.4004

#### **Mulberry Public Library**

905 NE 5th St 863.425.3246

#### **Polk City Community Library**

215 S Bougainvillea Ave 863.984.4340

#### Winter Haven Public Library

325 Ave A NW 863.291.5880



Manage your library account and get the most updated info on all 15 public libraries in Polk County.

#### Mobile Library Services



#### **Bringing the library to YOU!**

<u>Pop-Up Library</u> We Bring Library Books & Programming to You! Want us to "Pop-Up" at your event? Contact us at (863)393-5610 or email - j.kovac@mypclc.info.

Books-by-Mail (B-Mail) Call or order online and return at any public library in Polk County. 863.519.7958. https://tinyurl.com/MYPCLC-BMAIL

**Vending Library** Check-out popular books and movies for all ages for FREE with your library card. A book drop is available at the following vending library locations:

Bartow - Carver Rec Center 20 Herbert Dixon Blvd 863.534.0161

**Davenport - Welcome Center** 101 Adventure Ct 863.420.2586

Eloise Resource Center 710 Snively Ave 863.298.4485 **Lakeland - City Hall** 228 S Massachusetts Ave 863.834.6000

Lake Wales Family Rec Center 1001 Burns Ave 863.678.4004

## LIBRARY PROGRAMS

# PCLC POLK COUNTY LIBRARY COOPERATIVE https://www.mypclc.org

#### **PLUS** (Polk Library User for Students)



#### READING ENRICHMENT

#### Dial-a-Story

Your child can listen on the phone to a short story read by librarians from the Auburndale Public Library. Stories are changed weekly. To enjoy, call 863-965-5550.

#### **Excellence in Reading**

This is a self-paced, yearlong reading challenge for children grades K-12. Children earn reading incentives as they reach reading goals. Where: Winter Haven, Lake Alfred, & Lake Wales

#### **Summer Reading**

During the summer months, be sure to check with your local library to get involved with the Summer Reading Program that offers tons of fun activities and reading incentives.

#### LIBRARY STORY TIMES

#### **Auburndale**

Preschool Story Time 10:30 am I Wednesday

Paws for Reading 3:30 - 4:30 pm I Monday

#### **Bartow**

Book Babies Story Time (ages 18 mo - 2 years) 10:00 am I Thursday

Songs & Stories 11:00 am I Thursday

Paws to Read 10:00 am I 3rd Saturday

Bilingual Story Time (family-friendly) 11:00 am I 3rd Saturday

#### **Eagle Lake**

Preschool Story Time 9:30 am I Thursday

Read Aloud 3:30 - 4:30 pm 4th Thursday

#### Frostproof

Story Time Preschool PALS Play & Learn Story Time 10:00 am I Wednesday

#### **Haines City**

Baby Lapsit Story Time 10:30 am | Tuesday

Preschool Story Time 10:30 &11:30 am I Wednesday

**Bilingual Family Time** 11:00 am I Every Saturday

#### Lake Alfred

Preschool Story Time 10:00 am I Wednesday

#### **Lake Wales**

Wiggles & Giggles Story Time (0-3 years) 11:00 am I Tuesday

Tail Waggin' Tutors 3:30 pm | Tuesdays

#### Lakeland

Main on Lake Morton Story Time 10:00 am | Wednesday

10:00 am I Wednesday

Larry R Jackson Branch Bilingual Story Time 10:00 am | Last Thursday

Kelly Branch Story Time 10:15 am | 1st & 3rd Tuesday

#### Mulberry

Bilingual Story Time 10:00 am I Tuesday

Preschool Story Time 10:00 am I Wednesday

#### **Winter Haven**

Little Sprouts Story Time 10:30 am I Tues. & Wed.



Tail Waggin' Tutors, Lake Wales Public Library

## LIBRARY PROGRAMS



#### COMPUTER CLASSES & TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

#### **One-on-One Tech Support by Appointment**

Do you need help with a device or have a general technology question that requires more than a phone call? Book a session to schedule one-on-one time with library staff.

#### Dundee

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 am to Noon and 2:30 - 4:30 pm Call for an appointment (863) 439-9424

#### **Fort Meade**

Call for an appointment at (863) 285-8287

#### Lakeland

Larry R Jackson Call for an appointment (863) 834-4288

#### Lake Wales

Call for an appointment (863) 678-4004

#### Mulberry

Call for an appointment on Mondays at (863) 425-3246

#### Winter Haven

3rd Thursdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Book a Tech Session at <u>www.tinyurl.com/whpltech</u>

### Computer Classes: Group, In-Person & Online

A wide assortment of free computer classes, covering all levels and interests are offered.

#### **Bartow**

Call for an appointment or the current class schedule (863) 534-0131. <a href="https://www.cityofbartow.net/library">www.cityofbartow.net/library</a>

#### **Haines City**

Adult computer classes available. Call for the current schedule (863) 421-3633.

#### Lakeland

Class offerings and schedule vary each month. <a href="https://www.lakelandgov.net/departments/library/programs-classes/">www.lakelandgov.net/departments/library/programs-classes/</a>

#### Mulberry

Smartphone basics class takes place the third Monday of the month at 10:00 am. Call for details (863) 425-3246.

#### Winter Haven

Class offerings and schedule vary each month. <a href="https://whpl.libcal.com/">https://whpl.libcal.com/</a>

#### LEGO CLUBS & STEAM LEARNING PROGRAMS

#### **LEGO CLUBS**

#### **Bartow**

Ages 5-18 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 4:30 pm

#### Eagle Lake

Ages 5-12 1st Thursday 3:30 - 4:30 pm

#### **Fort Meade**

All ages Thursdays, drop-in all day

#### **Haines City**

All ages Every other Tuesday 4:00 - 5:30 pm

#### Lake Wales

All ages Thursdays, drop-in all day

#### Mulberry

Ages 5-10 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 3:30 pm

#### **Polk City**

Ages 6-12 Thursdays 3:30 pm

#### Winter Haven

Ages 6-12 Tuesdays 4:00 - 5:00 pm

#### **STEAM Learning Programs**

Join us as we create, learn, and explore the world around us through hands-on science, technology, engineering, art, and math: STEAM!

#### **Auburndale**

#### **Check-out a STEAM Box**

Enjoy hands-on learning with gadgets, instruments and more. Call to reserve one today (863)965-5548.

#### Eagle Lake STEAM Lab

3rd Thursdays, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

#### Lakeland STEAM Explorers

Ages 7 - 12 Select Fridays at 3:30 p.m. Call for the current schedule (863)834-4268.

## POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LIBRARY RESOURCE SERVICES

Polk County Public Schools' library media centers are wonderful places for PCPS students, families, and teachers to explore literacy. Each school library offers a unique collection and unique programming. PCPS District Library Media Services also offers district-wide literacy initiatives and programs throughout the year. For more information, please contact Stacy Davis at stacy.davis@polk-fl.net.



#### THE BOOKS BRIDGE

This is an outreach program designed to bring books and book related knowledge to communities in Polk County. Books Bridge Library Media Specialists and Paraprofessionals/Drivers take books on busses outfitted as mobile classrooms to every area of Polk County.

#### **READING COMES ALIVE**

A program where in Polk County secondary drama education students perform picture books for Polk County's 2nd grade students. Dramatic presentations are written and produced by secondary students, based on state award-nominated books for 2nd graders. 2nd graders travel to local theaters to watch the books come alive.

## SUNSHINE STATE YOUNG READERS FESTIVAL

This festival is designed to encourage students grades 3-8 to read and enjoy state award-nominated books. Students come together to create, compete, and learn about award-nominated titles read prior to the festival. Elementary and middle schools are encouraged to participate in the SSYRA Festival.

#### **PARENT PORTAL**

The <u>Parent Portal</u> is a service offered to parents and guardians for accessing certain student records, including grades and attendance information. The service allows parents and guardians to access information about ALL of their students through one convenient website. This eliminates the need to visit several different websites, make telephone calls, or visit the school to access records and information.

## **Online Learning Resources**



Enjoy free databases and websites for online learning and enrichment. Below is a quick guide, but there's more where this comes from! Visit the Polk County Library Cooperative's website for a full listing of online learning resources. <a href="https://mypclc.org/">https://mypclc.org/</a>

Resources provided by Polk County Library Cooperative. For more info, contact j.kovac@mypclc.info.

#### EARLY LITERACY WEBSITES

**AR Bookfinder for Kids** http://www.arbookfind.com/

**Common Core Standards** https://www.thecorestandards.org /read-the-standards/

DK Find Out! https://www.dkfindout.com/us/

Florida Department of Education -**Early Learning Resources** https://www.fldoe.org/schools/ early-learning/

Florida Students - Resources http://www.floridastudents.org/

Florida Virtual School https://www.flvs.net/

Lexile Measure https://lexile.com/

**Nemours Children Reading BrightStart** 

https://www.nemours.org/reading-brightstart.html

For literacy terms, visit www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/literacy-glossary

#### **DIGITAL LITERACY TOOLS & COMPUTER TUTORIALS**

DigitalLearn.org - computer classes/tutorials https://training.digitallearn.org/

**I4C: Internet 4 Classrooms** https://www.internet4classrooms.com

Free Online Learning at GCFGlobal https://www.gcflearnfree.org/

Treehouse - Self-paced, tech courses https://youtube.com/playlist? list=PLuC2HflhhpLH\_IcpNyehWTvqPxH1DAewe

· Available for free with your library card, provided by the Lakeland Public Library.

Niche Academy

https://my.nicheacademy.com/hainescity

· Enjoy a wide variety of learning tutorials and story time programs created by the Haines City Public Library.

**Sunshine State Readers** 

https://www.wedu.org/

www.floridamediaed.org/ssyra.html

**National Center for Families Learning** 

https://www.familieslearning.org/

TechLifeUnity.com

https://www.techlifeunity.com/

· Free technology education for adult seniors.

Winter Haven Public Library's YouTube **Technology Class Channel** https://youtube.com/playlist? <u>list=PL77DH5DK1D4JY3rqhIUyGma70I6dEQK4d</u>

• Learn computer skills or upgrade the ones you already have with these free, online tutorials provided by the Winter Haven Public Library.

#### LANGUAGE LEARNING DATABASES

#### **Mango Languages**

https://app.rocketlanguages.com/library/NWUwZWJmZ

 Available for free with your library card, provided by the Lake Wales Public Library.

## ONLINE LEARNING & CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATION

#### **Gale Courses**

https://education.gale.com/l-lwpl/

 Available for free with your library card, provided by the Lake Wales Public Library.

Great Courses Daily www.thegreatcourses.com/

Linkedin Learning tinyurl.com/whpllinkedin

 Available for free with your library card, provided by the Winter Haven Public Library

Udemy <a href="https://link.gale.com/apps/UDEMY?">https://link.gale.com/apps/UDEMY?</a> u=20398\_lkwpl

 Available for free with your library card, provided by the Lake Wales Public Library

#### **Rocket Languages**

https://learn.mangolanguages.com/login

 Available for free with your library card, provided by the Winter Haven Public Library.

## READERS ADVISORY ONLINE TOOLS

BookPage

https://bookpage.com/

Fantastic Fiction www.fantasticfiction.com/

Good Reads www.goodreads.com/

LitLovers www.litlovers.com/

Winter Haven Staff Recommends Page & Personal Shopper www.WHPLreads.com/

The Mulberry Book Drop Podcast www.audible.com/pd/Podcast/B08K571RFR

 Tune in for free the Mulberry Public Library's monthly podcast for library programs, book reviews, and general library information.

#### 2025 Summer Reading Program "Color Your World With Books" Polk County Library Cooperative

















#### FREE DIGITAL MEDIA & BOOKS

#### Freegal

https://lakelandgov.freegalmusic.com/home

 Available for free with your library card, provided by the Lakeland Public Library.

Hoopla (digital movies, audiobooks, music and eBooks) <a href="https://www.hoopladigital.com/">https://www.hoopladigital.com/</a>

• Available for free with your library card, provided by the Lakeland Public Library.

LitFinder (poems and short stories) <a href="http://go.galegroup.com/ps/start.do?">http://go.galegroup.com/ps/start.do?</a>
<a href="ppecage: pelcauthCount=1">ppecage: pelcauthCount=1</a>

• Available for free with your library card, provided by the Polk County Library Cooperative.

Viva Polk! Magazine <a href="https://en.vivapolk.com/">https://en.vivapolk.com/</a>

• Celebrating Hispanic language and multicultural diversity through print media.

**Tumblebooks** 

https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Home.aspx?categoryID=77

• Available for free with your library card, provided by the Lakeland Public Library.

Online Newspaper Collection

https://www.lakelandgov.net/departments/library/using-the-library/resources/ebooks-more/newspapers/

 Enjoy free digital access to local and national topics, old and current news from the most credible newspaper resources with your library card.

#### **BookSmart**

https://booksmart.world/facct

- · Free Books available in English and Spanish.
- Use 4-character code: FACC

Gale Books & Authors http://bna.galegroup.com/bna/

Project Gutenberg <a href="http://www.gutenberg.org/">http://www.gutenberg.org/</a>

ERIC (over 150,000 full text articles) <a href="http://fel.worldcat.org/advancedsearch?">http://fel.worldcat.org/advancedsearch?</a> dblist=203

PALMM Digital Collections site, hosted by The Florida Virtual Campus http://fof.fcla.edu/cgi/b/bib/bib-idx

SAGE Knowledge <a href="http://sk.sagepub.com/">http://sk.sagepub.com/</a>

OverDrive/Libby (digital eBooks, audiobooks and movies) <a href="https://pclc.overdrive.com/">https://pclc.overdrive.com/</a>

• Available for free with your library card, provided by the Polk County Library Cooperative.



#### STUDENT & TEACHER RESOURCES/HOMEWORK HELP

Ask-a-Librarian https://askalibrarian.org/

Digital Citizen Academy https://digitalcitizenacademy.org

Florida Kids (state facts) http://dos.myflorida.com/florida-facts/kids/

Florida Memory Online Classroom https://www.floridamemory.com/learn/classroom/

Florida Student Resources <a href="http://www.floridastudents.org/">http://www.floridastudents.org/</a>

Khan Academy https://www.khanacademy.org/

FLDOE Standards https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/

Library of Congress <a href="https://www.loc.gov/">https://www.loc.gov/</a>

MLA Style Guides online & APA Styles Purdue Online Writing Lab https://owl.purdue.edu/

Periodic Table of Elements (Videos) <a href="http://www.periodicvideos.com/">http://www.periodicvideos.com/</a>

Polk County Public Schools - Online Resources <a href="https://www.polkschoolsfl.com/quicklinks/onlineresources">https://www.polkschoolsfl.com/quicklinks/onlineresources</a>

We Are Teachers <a href="https://www.weareteachers.com/">https://www.weareteachers.com/</a>

Florida Electronic Library <a href="https://www.flelibrary.com">https://www.flelibrary.com</a>

#### 0-6 months - no screens!

- Read slowly to your child and describe the pictures.
- Use your child's name when speaking to them.
- Repeat sounds the baby makes, like "da-da".
- Play engaging games like "peek-a-boo".
- Talk to your child about the day and what you are doing.



#### 6-12 months - no screens!

- Read with your child show pictures and describe them.
- Play games and ask questions Peek-a-boo! Where did it go?
- Play with toys, describe actions, name colors and shapes of things.
- Listen to music and sing along. Nursery rhymes and ABCs are great starter songs!
- Encourage sensory engagement water play, exploring different textures with hands and feet, and offering a variety of safe, age-appropriate foods for self-feeding.

#### 1-2 years - no screens!

- Allow your child to select books to read. Ask questions about the pictures.
- Encourage your child to imitate and play 'pretend' activities.
- Plan activities indoor and outdoor for improved physical movement.
- As they practice picking up toys, talk about quantities ("You have three, one is missing.")
- Name everything! Around the house, on a ride in the car, pictures in books, at the park.

#### 2-3 years - no screens!

- As you read aloud, stop to ask thoughtful, open-ended questions ("What is the cat feeling?")
- Talk with your child about emotions, in themselves and others.
- Teach problem solving and puzzling by asking questions and letting them try their solutions.
- Encourage your child to use crayons, markers, pens and pencils, and sidewalk chalk.
- Is your child singing along with the ABCs and acting out familiar nursery rhymes?

#### 3-4 years - up to 30 minutes of screen time each day

- Read on repeat! Your child will begin to pretend to read when they remember the story.
- Sing and look at ABCs, then help your child recognize the letters in their name.
- At least two hours a day of free play and movement, both indoors and outdoors.
- Talk about their day. Talk about your day. Talk about activities, routines, people and objects.

#### 4 years - up to 30 minutes of screen time each day

- Make up stories together. Encourage descriptive details, events in order, and social skills.
- Help your child trace letters and numbers with crayons, markers, pens and pencils.
- Explore initial sounds (M is for Mom) and rhyming words (bug/mug, pet/net).
- Play 'Simon Says' Simon says raise your hand. Simon says tap your head.
- Visit the library. Attend community activities for families and young children.











info@polkvision.com



863-669-4939



polkschoolsfl.com



863-534-0500







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