



2018

BOOK DRIVE SPEAKING POINTS

- Middlesex United Way is hosting a community-wide book drive for preschool students to ensure they are ready to learn by school entry and reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- The books will be distributed to Middlesex United Way's funded partner programs and public and private child care centers in every town throughout Middlesex County.
- Along with our partners, Middlesex United Way's school readiness initiative is working with school systems, early childcare providers, and parents throughout Middlesex County to identify and assist our youngest children who have social and emotional problems before they enter school.
- We support programs that assist young children to become school ready and also educate their parents about the important role they play in their child's earliest years. We are currently working with schools in all fifteen of the towns in Middlesex County.
- The years between ages 3 and 5 are critical to reading growth, and some 5-year-olds are already in kindergarten. As children go from saying their first sentences to speaking in paragraphs, you will start to see exciting milestones develop with reading.
- Ensuring that all children, regardless of their early experiences, can read by the time they are in third grade positions them to absorb content in later elementary grades and establish a strong foundation for secondary school.
- One recent study found that nearly a quarter of students who don't read proficiently by the end of third grade won't graduate from high school on time, compared to 9% of children with basic reading skills and only 4% of proficient readers.



Middlesex United Way