



LINCOLN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Improving Health Care and Outcomes for Residents of Lincoln Parish

Initiative:	Healthier Beginnings
Project Name:	Louisiana Tech University School of Human Ecology <i>Bulldog Book Club – Increasing Lincoln Parish Preschoolers’ Access to Books in the Home</i>
Funding Period:	July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015
Project Coordinator:	Julie M. Rutledge, PhD
Project Administration:	Louisiana Tech University School of Human Ecology
Total Funding Requested:	\$67,997.61 (<i>plus Year #1 Roll-Over of \$8,502.39</i>)

Program Summary

The purpose of the grant is to continue the successful implementation in 2013 of a Lincoln Parish-wide literacy outreach program open to all children who attend a non-profit, non-affiliated preschool. Three pre-school programs fitting this description in Lincoln Parish reached approximately 560 children at Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Center, Head Start, and Louisiana Tech Early Childhood Education Center.

This year, the *Bulldog Book Club* will expand its scope of service to a total of five pre-schools. The two new schools are satellite campuses of Head Start located in Bernice, Louisiana and Somerville which comprises a total of 80 children. Total children enrolled in this year #2 grant is expected to be 640.

The Louisiana Tech University School of Human Ecology Center for Children and Families grant is titled – *Bulldog Book Club – Increasing Lincoln Parish Preschoolers’ Access to Books in the Home*.

Grant Objectives

The primary objectives of the program are:

- (1) To increase preschoolers’ access to books in the home; and,
- (2) determine if increasing children’s access to books in the home increases their reading comprehension.

The secondary objectives are:

- (1) To encourage children's interests in books by creating a fun and rewarding reading environment; and,
- (2) to encourage parents to include reading time with their children in daily activities.

To accomplish the program objectives, a Bulldog Book Club (BBC) will be created. Through the book club, preschoolers will receive a BBC bag each month. The first bag will include welcome information to the children and parents, information about the program, BBC gear, and the first book. Each subsequent month's bag will include a book, BBC gear, and, potentially, any information from the community that specifically focuses on services and opportunities available to children and families in the Lincoln Parish community. May's bags will include four books to cover May – August to encourage reading over the summer. The bags will be delivered each month to the three identified early childhood locations and sent home with the children. Each month, the books and information will have a theme.

Example themes from the year #1 grant included: Health/Nutrition – *Eating the Alphabet* (healthy fruits and vegetables); *The Snowy Day* (self-help skills/dressing appropriately); *Nannie Goat Nettie: I Don't Like Spaghetti* (picky eating); *Doc McStuffins Doctor Bag* (visiting the doctor); *Get up and Go!* (physical activity); *Germs Are Not For Sharing* (hygiene).