



# LINCOLN HEALTH FOUNDATION

*Improving Health Care and Outcomes for Residents of Lincoln Parish*

---

<b>Initiative:</b>	Healthier Beginnings
<b>Project Name:</b>	Louisiana Tech University School of Human Ecology <i>Bulldog Book Club – Increasing Lincoln Parish Preschoolers’ Access to Books in the Home</i>
<b>Funding Period:</b>	August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017
<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	Julie M. Rutledge, PhD
<b>Project Administration:</b>	Louisiana Tech University School of Human Ecology
<b>Total Funding Requested:</b>	\$56,431.00

---

## 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, the Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Center (LPECC), Head Start, and Louisiana Tech Early Childhood Education Center, have participated in in the *Bulldog Book Club*. More than 20,000 books have been delivered to more than 1,700 preschoolers and their families.

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*. The overwhelming success that this program has achieved since its inception makes this one of the Foundation’s hallmark grants.

## Grant Objectives

The primary objectives of the program are:

- (1) To increase preschoolers’ access to books in the home. Over the past three years approximately 20,200 books have been delivered to over 1,700 preschoolers and their families; and,
- (2) determine if increasing children’s access to books in the home increases their reading comprehension. To measure this the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, Fourth Edition (Dunn & Dunn, 2007) was used to evaluate students at the beginning and end of the school year.

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, preschooler participants in the Bulldog Book Club (BBC) receive a BBC bag each month. The first bag includes welcome information to the children and parents, information about the program, BBC gear, and the first book. Each subsequent month's bag includes 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 are delivered each month to the three identified early childhood locations and sent home with the children. Each month, the books and information have a particular theme. Books are translated for preschoolers who do not have English speaking parents. Themes covered in the books include health/nutrition, self-help skills/dressing appropriately); visiting the doctor, physical activity, and hygiene.