



**Ten things you can do right now to improve literacy in Greater Cleveland:**

1. **Get informed about crucial issues related to literacy.** Did you know many Cleveland third graders are reading below grade level and may not be promoted to the next grade because of a new Ohio law, the Third Grade Reading Guarantee? Did you know 44% of Cuyahoga County adults lack the literacy skills needed to advance out of low-wage jobs? Visit our website at [www.literacycooperative.org/litfacts.htm](http://www.literacycooperative.org/litfacts.htm) to find out how raising the literacy rate will improve Northeast Ohio's economic future.
2. **Volunteer as a tutor.** There's no better way to make a difference than to work one-on-one with a child or adult who needs help learning to read. It isn't hard, and training is available. Learn more about become a reading or math tutor by contacting one of the following agencies:
  - The Volunteer Center at BVU offers dozens of literacy-themed volunteer opportunities, ranging from being a child's reading buddy during summer camp to assisting immigrants in learning and reading English. To get started, go to [www.bvuvolunteers.org/volunteer](http://www.bvuvolunteers.org/volunteer) and search keyword "literacy" or look for opportunities with a book graphic. When you volunteer and log 4 hours or more in the Volunteer Center at BVU, receive 2 free tickets to select Tribe games as part of the Cleveland Indians Volunteer Challenge. Interested in volunteering with your co-workers? BVU can work with your team to customize a service project that boosts literacy in your community; learn more at ([www.bvuvolunteers.org/services-for-businesses/](http://www.bvuvolunteers.org/services-for-businesses/). You can also reach BVU by phone at 216-736-7711.)
  - Sign up to be a reading tutor during the summer or the school year by contacting Greater Cleveland Volunteers. Training will be provided. Call 216-391-9500 or go to <http://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org/> to learn more.
3. **Are you a parent of a young child? Then join our 20 Minutes of Reading A Day challenge!** Spending time reading with your kids has so many benefits – it helps them develop communication skills and makes them better students. Take our Facebook pledge at <http://tinyurl.com/14rbhyy> and promise to read 20 minutes a day with your kids this summer. Then join our social media blitz: Tell the world you're participating by posting selfies of you

reading with your kids on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Use the hashtag #cleliteracy. We want to see 10,000 parents reading in Greater Cleveland!

4. **Take a child to the library.** Did you know that students can lose more than two months of reading skill during summer break? Demystify the library for a child who isn't a regular patron and help him get excited about reading by signing him up for a library summer reading club. To register for "Ready. Set. Read!" which is Cuyahoga County Public Library's summer program, go online to [www.ccplsummerreading.org](http://www.ccplsummerreading.org) or visit your nearest county library branch. Or sign a child up for Cleveland Public Library's "Get A Clue" summer series, which encourages kids to read mysteries and even includes talks from local detectives! Participants need not be Cleveland residents -- sign up online at <http://readingclub.cpl.org/> or in person at a Cleveland Public Library branch.
5. **Urge a friend to sign up for a literacy or GED program.** Do you know someone who needs that extra motivation to brush up on reading skills or complete their GED? Help them lift their earning potential by encouraging them to dial 2-1-1 to reach a United Way information specialist who can guide them to literacy classes in their neighborhood. Thirteen percent of Cuyahoga County adults lack a high school diploma or GED, and they could use a friend's support as they tackle this challenge.
6. **Ask your employer about setting up a workplace literacy program.** Some forward-thinking local employers including University Hospitals are providing literacy courses and GED training to help their employees advance in the company. Urge your Human Resources Department to learn more about these promising programs by contacting us at 216-776-6180 or go online to [www.literacycooperative.org/employers.htm](http://www.literacycooperative.org/employers.htm).
7. **Launch a book seminar at your job.** Would you enjoy sharing a monthly book with your co-workers? Check out the national Books@Work program, which has been utilized locally by employees at AVI Foodsystems, Cardinal Health, Swagelok and Maple Heights City Schools, with professors from Case and Hiram. For more information, go to [www.booksatwork.org](http://www.booksatwork.org) or call Capria Jaussen, Operations Coordinator, at 216-800-1292.
8. **Join the Little Free Library movement.** Become a steward for one of these grassroots mini-libraries or help raise \$400 to place one in a Cleveland neighborhood. Learn more about Cleveland's fast-growing Little Free Library movement and its engaging parent outreach plan by visiting our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/littlefreelibrarycleveland](http://www.facebook.com/littlefreelibrarycleveland)) or call 216-776-6180.
9. **Make a financial donation to help advance literacy initiatives.** Check out the important work The Literacy Cooperative is undertaking in Greater Cleveland by going online to [www.literacycooperative.org/programs.htm](http://www.literacycooperative.org/programs.htm). An investment in our work bolsters our ability to be

changemakers. You can make a donation by clicking the “Donate” button at the top of our [www.literacycooperative.org](http://www.literacycooperative.org) home page or mail your check to The Literacy Cooperative, 1331 Euclid Ave., Cleveland OH 44115.

10. **Stay connected with us on social media.** Let us know which Top 10 item you choose to do! Follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @literacycoop, and be sure to like The Literacy Cooperative on Facebook. Tag us and use the hashtag #cleliteracy when you post pictures of yourself doing something from our Top 10 list --we'll be sure to shout you out. By spreading the word about our call to action, you're helping to inspire all of Northeast Ohio to get involved in this vital effort!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE TOP 10 AT  
[WWW.LITERACYCOOPERATIVE.ORG/TOP10](http://WWW.LITERACYCOOPERATIVE.ORG/TOP10)