

# BABY'S FIRST WORDS

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children's first teachers. Librarians foster a love of

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agencies, non-profit and

### Building literacy from birth

than their more affluent

Every Child Ready to Read Babies Need Words Every Day;

helps them develop skills and confidence to read with their

birth. For example, the West Bloomfield Township (Mich.)

program. The library hosts families, invites resource

nighttime routines. The Salt Lake

and reading readiness. The library

mentors. The Casa Grande

digital resources. The

Story Times for families

older. Meanwhile, the Kitsap Regional Library (Wash.)

### Strengthening school learning

the United States can read proficiently by fourth grade. The numbers are even more dismal for those living in

The Virginia Beach (Va.) Public Library works with

Addressing special needs  
and circumstances

**T**he 120,000 libraries across the United States are a powerful force in addressing public policy priorities. Libraries advance Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Empowerment, and Engagement for Everyone, Everywhere—The E's of Libraries®.

Libraries serve America's cities, towns, counties, and states; on school and college campuses; on military bases; in hospitals, government agencies, corporations, and other institutions. Library professionals provide diverse programs, services and resources tailored to community needs.

The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 58,000 members. The ALA Annual Conference, held in June, typically attracts over 20,000 participants. ALA maintains a Washington Office to engage federal and national decision makers and influencers.

For further information about this publication, contact Alan S. Inouye ([ainouye@alawash.org](mailto:ainouye@alawash.org)) or Larra Clark ([clark@alawash.org](mailto:clark@alawash.org)); 202-628-8410.

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