



Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

for children, families, and the future



Reading is Fundamental (RIF), the nation's leading nonprofit children's literacy organization has a mission: to motivate America's children to read often and well by involving them as early in their lives as possible. In Rockcastle County RIF provides approximately 600 books to more than 200 children each year. The Rockcastle County RIF program has 10 local school personnel who organize successful reading motivation activities and book distributions. Since starting the RIF program in 1999, children in our county have read more than 1,800 books through the RIF give-a-way opportunities alone. Local RIF sponsors include: The Title I Program, The Migrant Program and the Basic Arts Program. RIF provides more than books. It also exposes students to activities to capture their imagination, and inspire them to read along with teachers and administrators who make a difference.

In June of 2000, our district was awarded a Federal grant for \$1,857.00 to help with the RIF expenses. We are expecting to receive that same amount for the 2001-2002 school year. We currently have all three (3) elementaries participating.

- Brodhead Elementary (Early Primary [k-1])
- Mt. Vernon Elementary (Early Primary [1-2])
- Roundstone Elementary (Primary [k-3])

Studies show that children who read often read well. RIF motivates children to reach through initiatives like Rockcastle County RIF Program, which features fun-filled reading motivational activities and books that research shows kids like. Claudinnia Cash, Title I Supervisor, Charles Napier, Migrant Program, Director and H. Allen Pensol, Basic Arts Coordinator have teamed up for literacy performances prior to each RIF give-a-way. Students/teachers/administrators have worked together to make this project a success. Plans are to expand the grade range to include intermediate students in the near future.

Rockcastle County Schools, Superintendent, Larry B. Hammond, selects an annual logo or theme for each school year. The 2000-2001 year is "Taking The Time." It is the instructional staffs focus on reading (literacy) that spurs the RIF Program and it is our sincere goal to make sure we *take the time* to ensure that all children, not only learn to read but develop a love for reading.

If you would be interested in helping with the RIF Program, please contact Ms. Cash, Mr. Napier or Mr. Pensol at (606) 256-2125.

RIF Talking Points

What does RIF do?

- Helps young people discover the joy of reading
- Gets kids reading
- Works to build a literate nation, one child at a time
- Helps young children want to read
- Gives children a chance to grow up reading
- Gives young people a chance to become lifelong readers and learners
- Provides access to books and the motivation to read them
- Provides motivational reading activities and books to children

What does RIF provide children?

- Books to choose, own, take home, read, and enjoy with their families
- Adult-led activities to awaken and nurture a desire to read
- Parental and community involvement to support children's ongoing reading development

According to the book *Ready to Learn*, 1991, "Every child, to be educationally successful, needs a language-rich environment, one in which adults speak, listen, and read aloud every day."

