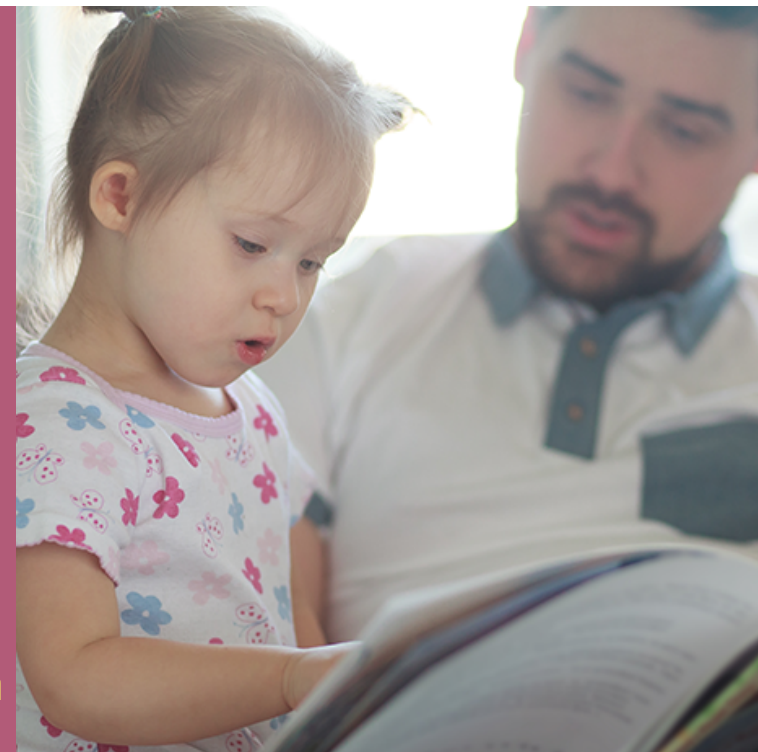


# #AreYouKiddingMe?

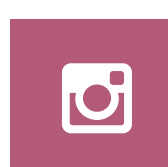
“In some middle-income neighborhoods, the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1; in low-income ones, it’s 1 to 300 children!”

-Handbook on Early Literacy Research



**Access to books is considered the single biggest barrier to literacy gains for young children.** That means a shortage of age-appropriate materials in poor neighborhoods can affect a child’s development.

This type of deficiency during the early years could be a factor in poor test scores later. In 2018, 43 percent of Florida third-graders scored below proficiency levels in reading.



If you’d like to make a difference in the lives of early readers, become a ReadingPal! You’ll have the opportunity to read to two youngsters from pre-kindergarten to third grade, bringing a new book and a friendly face into their world each week.

The  
**Children’s  
Movement**  
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