Leading to Reading
A community project of the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.

LTR provides:
- **Family Reading Kits** – each with 2 new books, craft materials, and parent information
- **Fuzzy Friend Kits** – a Family Reading Kit plus a cuddly stuffed animal for children in crisis situations
- **Summer Reading Kits** – Family Reading Kits for children in a migrant family day camp
- **Books for Babies Packets** – a new book for every baby born in Vassar Brothers Medical Center
- **Laundromat Libraries** – books for adults and children to borrow or keep

Since 2004, Leading to Reading (LTR), a volunteer-run early literacy program, has donated and distributed more than 42,000 books to children from low- and moderate-income families throughout Dutchess County.

Research shows that children exposed to “print rich” environments are more likely to succeed in school.

LTR formed strategic partnerships:
- **With community agencies:** Head Start Programs, community day care centers, afterschool programs, Literacy Connection school programs, community centers, battered women’s shelters, emergency child shelters, migrant family day camp, teachers’ associations, private day school, senior residences
- **With funding sources:** Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc., AAUW-NYS Program grant, member donations, Nora Roberts Foundation, retired teachers’ associations, Central Hudson, Stewart’s Ice Cream Shops, Kohl’s. In-kind: Manor at Woodside (work and storage space)
- **With book sources:** Community Nursery School of PUMC, Friends of Poughkeepsie Public Library, Lisa Libraries, Barnes & Noble, First Book, Family Reading Partnership, Scholastic FACE, teachers’ union and Child’s Play

Promoting literacy through access to quality books.
Educating parents about the importance of reading to children.

LTR outreach to the community includes:
- Book Week celebrations
- Book Giveaways at temporary housing facilities
- Used book giveaways for parent libraries and adults in shelters
- Community readers for Head Start pre-school classrooms
- Multi-generational activities – involving middle school students and those living in a senior residence
- Holiday gift wrapping – books and gifts for residents in temporary housing

Support reading in your community!

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Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.: aauwpoughkeepsie.org