

# Houston READ Commission

The Mayor's Coalition for Literacy

*Leading a coalition of organizations and mobilizing resources  
to meet the literacy needs of our community*

**MAYOR BILL WHITE**

**HOUSTON READ COMMISSION**

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Tracy Baskin

February 1, 2006

Dear Childcare Provider:

The Houston READ Commission has joined the "Read by Six Initiative", a coalition of organizational partnerships designed to improve literacy and computer literacy among children. Childcare providers are invited to become a part of this innovative program by teaching three, four and five-year old students to read.

Childcare providers will have access to free or low-cost computers containing hundreds of software programs designed for children. One of the software programs is CompuTutor, that is designed to assist beginners with the reading process. By utilizing CompuTutor, you may be able to teach your preschool students to read up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. Students will receive certificates from the Commission upon successful completion of the program.

The Houston READ Commission endeavors to enrich the lives of adult Houstonians and their families by helping them achieve their full potential through literacy. People who cannot read often take low paying jobs or have difficulty finding meaningful employment. Children who cannot read have greater risks of dropping out of school and becoming involved in criminal activity. Major companies consider where they are going to locate their businesses based on the education levels of the potential workforce. Clearly, illiteracy is a problem that affects many facets of our lives.

We strongly urge childcare providers to participate in this innovative program that will improve literacy and computer literacy among the children they serve. The Commission will provide the following to the "Read by Six Initiative":

1. Certificates for children and "Exemplary Sites"
2. Secure storage of student files
3. Books and other prizes if available

We look forward to working with you to help the students that you serve become literate and computer literate prior to their enrollment in school.

Sincerely,

  
Tracy Baskin  
Executive Director