

Article Continued: Longitudinal Study Links Low Adult Literacy to Early Language Problems

At the age of 5, each participant took a standard vocabulary test. Each child was shown a set of pictures and asked to identify which one was associated with a specific word. After concluding this test, 4 percent of the children were found to have “very limited” language skills.

The research also identified three external factors that commonly coincide with language challenges:

1. Families with no income from paid employment
2. Children living in crowded homes
3. Amount of time parents spent reading to children

Without attempts to better the three above factors, the researchers stated the likelihood of improving literacy and language skills may be diminished.

To help aid the situation, researchers recommended doctors and schools implement screening for older, disadvantaged children. The reason: While many screenings are conducted in preschool, it is likely that lower-income children do not attend preschool and would not be screened.

To read the entire research synopsis, click [here](#).