



Community Highlights



NYC Mayoral Candidates Affirm Literacy as a Civil Right at Forum

New York City mayoral candidates came together to affirm that literacy is a civil right—and a top priority for the city's future. Co-hosted by LINC and other education advocates, the event highlighted urgent reading gaps across NYC and called for bold, evidence-based leadership to expand access to effective literacy instruction. **Be sure to vote in NYC's Mayoral Primary Election on June 24th!** Learn more at the [NYC Board of Elections website](#).

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When Women Lead, NYC Succeeds!

LINC proudly joined the NYC Council

Women's Caucus and City's First Readers partners on the steps of City Hall to champion early childhood literacy in the FY26 city budget. With powerful voices from across the city, the event spotlighted the life-changing impact of early literacy programs—and the need to protect and expand them. Read how LINC and 16 partner organizations are reaching families across NYC and making sure that every child has the chance to thrive from birth.



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Little Readers Bloom in New York City Gardens During CFR Month

In April, City's First Readers brought early literacy into full bloom with a series of joyful garden programs across NYC. From the MET Cloisters to Wave Hill, toddlers and their families explored nature, read stories, and celebrated spring together. With over 10,000 website visits and thousands of families reached, it was a season of growth—in more ways than one.

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LINC's Diversity Through Literacy Campaign Featured Live on the PIX 11 Morning Show

LINC's 5th annual Diversity Through Literacy campaign made headlines this April as PIX 11 News highlighted the importance of representation in children's books. Featuring longtime LINC collaborator and author Susie Jaramillo, the segment spotlighted how diverse stories help children celebrate their identities, build empathy, and see the world through new perspectives.



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Talking Early Intervention: LINC Joins the Conversation on The Literacy View Podcast

LINC's Laura Walsh and Josh Barocas joined **The Literacy View** podcast to talk about our community-powered approach to early literacy. In this episode, they dive into how early language experiences—especially those rich in sound and meaning—can help prevent future reading struggles. Tune in to hear how LINC's model supports real families, real teachers, and real results. Listen on [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#), or [Apple Podcasts](#).

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A Note from Shari: Changing the Reading Proficiency Narrative Together

The latest ***Nation'sReportCard*** shows a steep decline in reading scores nationwide—and a widening gap between low-income students and their wealthier peers. At LINC, these numbers only deepen our commitment to meeting families where they are, starting from birth. By empowering parents as their child's first teacher and surrounding families with resources, books, and support, we're helping to build daily literacy habits that last.



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LINC's Spring Gala Featured on PIX 11 Morning News!

A big thank you to everyone who made LINC's Spring Gala a tremendous success—our honorees **Susie Jaramillo** and **Debora Mulrain**, featured speaker **Yaretzi Canete**, Emcee and PIX 11 Anchor **Dan Mannarino**, the **Dance Project of Washington Heights**, and all of our generous supporters. See the celebration on [PIX 11 Morning News!](#)

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Parent Tips

Download Our Parent Tip Card!
4 Ways to Raise a Culturally
Aware Child

 [English Version](#)

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Parent Tip: 4 Simple Ways to Raise a Culturally Aware Child

By age 5, children start noticing differences in race and social status based on what they see around them. Since they learn from their environment, it's important to create diverse and inclusive spaces where they feel valued, seen, and heard. Experiencing different cultures helps them develop kindness, open-mindedness, and confidence.



Say Hello – Teach them how to say "hello" in another language.



Use a Map – Show them where your family is from and where they were born.



Read Books – Choose stories that reflect your family's background and those of other races.



Explore Flavors – Taste foods from different cultures together.



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