

Do not close the book on RIF

Milpitas Post

Letter to the Editor

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Dear Editor,

Reading Is Fundamental, the children's literacy nonprofit, provides more than 1,000 free books to children in Santa Clara County served by Vision Literacy. RIF is a federal government program and a decision at that level impacts the decisions and actions of others. Sadly, President Bush has proposed eliminating funding to this important organization. Unless Congress saves RIF's federal funding, the children and families we serve will no longer have RIF books to chose and keep.

For the past 13 years, Vision Literacy has worked closely with the RIF program through our work promoting literacy with children and families. Thanks to RIF we are able to offer free brand new books to children in Gilroy and Morgan Hill in conjunction with our adult literacy programs there.

We also give RIF books to the children of inmates involved in parenting and rehabilitative programs at the Elmwood Correctional Facility in Milpitas.

We know from research that when kids read for fun they do better in school. As educators and parents we must prepare our children for success in the information age. It is important that we do not allow these books to be taken away.

Join me in writing Congressman Michael Honda, Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Sen. Barbara Boxer urging them to fund the Reading Is Fundamental book program. For more information go to rif.org, there is a link on the home page about contacting your congress people.

Timothy Miller, associate manager, Vision Literacy - Corrections, Milpitas