



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the love of reading is one of the greatest tools a child can receive, and is a key component in ensuring a solid educational foundation for the future; and

WHEREAS, reading to a child early and often not only strengthens the emotional bond between parents and children, but also improves a child's ability to succeed right from the start of their formal education; and

WHEREAS, reading stimulates the development of the brain, language skills and aids in a child's personal and creative development; and

WHEREAS, important organizations and events like Book'Em, Read Me Week and Read Across America promote children's literacy and the love of reading by communicating to all age groups in the community that reading is fun, exciting and essential; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation, a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization was formed as a resource to Tennesseans, and through its partnership with the Dollywood Foundation, community leaders and volunteers established and sustain county Imagination Libraries, making the program available to all of Tennessee's 375,000 children under five; and

WHEREAS, kindergarten and pre-k teachers in Tennessee collectively affirmed that children who had participated in the Imagination Library start school better prepared to learn than students who had not participated in the program; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Read to a Child Month 2009 will provide communities and organizations across the state the opportunity to increase awareness of the importance of reading in a child's life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 2009 as

READ TO A CHILD MONTH

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens, young and old, to join me in celebrating the joy of reading.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 16th day of March, 2009.

Phil Bredesen

Governor

Joe Hargrett

Secretary of State