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## Osceola County families invited to first Reading Fest

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The Osceola Reads literacy initiative will host the free family event, Osceola Reads Reading Fest 2017, Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kissimmee Lakefront Park. Families with children ages 2 through 5 are invited to bring smart devices to practice reading using Footsteps2Brilliance, compete in reading-themed yard games and enter for a chance to win an Amazon Fire tablet.

Osceola Reads will be joined by the School District of Osceola County, the Osceola Library System, and the Education Foundation of Osceola County at this event and will be available to speak with parents about how they can support their children's literacy, in both Spanish and English, at home.

Parents and teachers who cannot attend the event can register their children at [www.OsceolaReads.com](http://www.OsceolaReads.com) and download the free, bilingual Footsteps2Brilliance app on any smart device. With 15 digital libraries, games, songs, and other early learning activities, Footsteps2Brilliance offers complete literacy support from pre-kindergarten through second grade in two languages.

The Osceola Reads Reading Fest is made possible because of our sponsors: the School District and Education Foundation of Osceola County, cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud, and the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners.

The goal of Osceola Reads is to incentivize parents to actively assist their children in building a foundation for lifelong literacy, thus continuing to increase the school readiness rate of Osceola County's youngest residents. In partnership with many countywide initiatives, Osceola County saw a 20 percent year-over-year increase in students' readiness rate in 2016 based on kindergarten assessments. Currently in year two, Osceola Reads continues to help improve the literacy skills of Osceola County students. As of Nov. 10, 2017, Osceola Reads had registered 6,573 community users for the Footsteps2Brilliance app since the launch of the program in February 2016, in addition to every student in the district grades VPK through 2nd grade. Older students are able to register and use the app also.

For more details about the initiative or to register your child, visit [www.OsceolaReads.com](http://www.OsceolaReads.com).