



T.O.N.I.E.S – Together Our Narratives Inspire Every Story

Presented by:
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Using family literacy and tonies® storytelling to strengthen generations



**FAMILY & CONSUMER
SCIENCES EDUCATION**

TEXAS TECH
College of Health & Human Sciences
Department of Interdisciplinary Human Sciences



OBJECTIVES:

- Understand the core purpose of the T.O.N.I.E.S program
- Identify the community and institutional partnerships involved and how they developed
- Describe the workflow for creating, reviewing, and distributing parent recorded tonies ®
- Recognize the benefits for children, caregivers, and incarcerated parents
- Apply lesson learned to consider how similar programs might be adapted in their own communities
- Explore strategies for scaling or sustaining family connectivity initiatives
- Give away some door prizes!

Why Literacy Matters

Children develop language skills before entering school

Adult literacy influences educational and economic outcomes

Reading together builds emotional connection and confidence

The Intergenerational Cycle



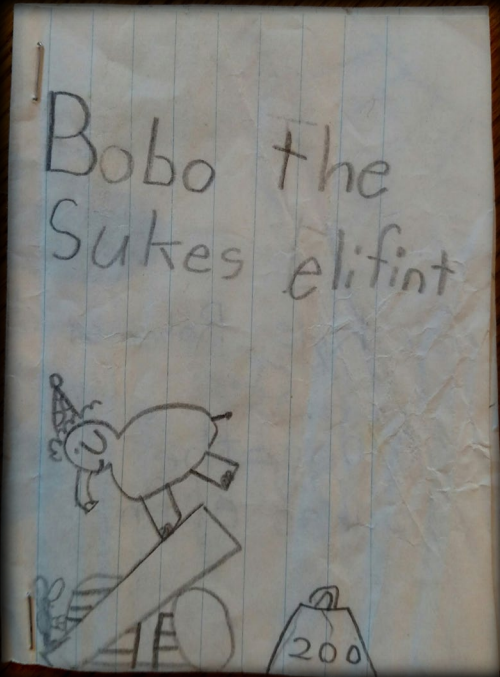
Limited literacy often repeats
across generations

Low literacy impacts school
readiness

Family literacy can interrupt the
cycle

Origin Story

T.O.N.I.E.S



How tonies work



Read to Kids

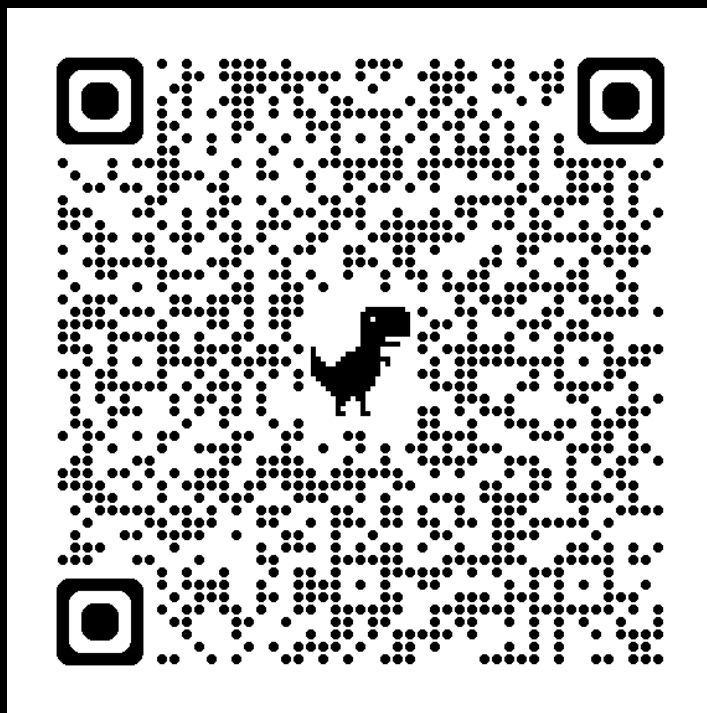
Place a Tonie character on the Toniebox to start playback. Each Tonie figurine contains audio content such as stories, songs, or educational activities that the Toniebox recognizes automatically.

The Toniebox downloads content during initial setup using Wi-Fi. After the content has been downloaded, children can listen to it without needing to stay connected to the internet.

Kids control playback with simple gestures. They can tap the sides to skip tracks, tilt the box to fast-forward or rewind, and squeeze the ears to adjust the volume.

Creative-Tonies allow personalized content. Parents and family members can upload or record their own stories, songs, and messages through the mytonies app for children to enjoy.

Innovation Spotlight: tonies ®



Sustainability Factors

Audio storytelling engages reluctant readers

Parents can record stories in their own voices

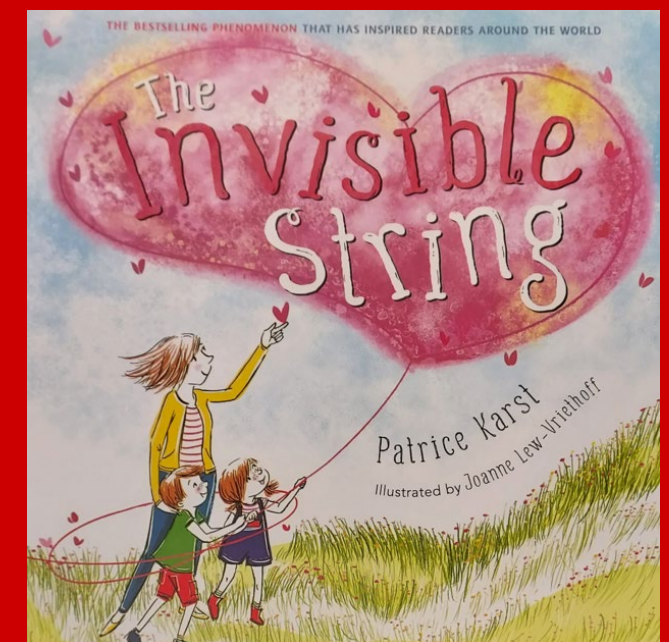
Children connect reading with comfort and family

Supports emergent literacy through repetition

Lubbock County Initiative



Partnership supporting incarcerated parents and children
Books paired with recorded storytelling
Families receive recordings and literacy materials
Focus on emotional connection and growth



Program Outcomes

Preliminary Findings/Observations

- Increased literacy engagement
- Improved parent-child bonding
- Positive feedback from caregivers
- Promotes consistency in reading routines



Community Advocacy



Libraries and schools as literacy hubs

Family literacy nights and book drives

Adult education partnerships

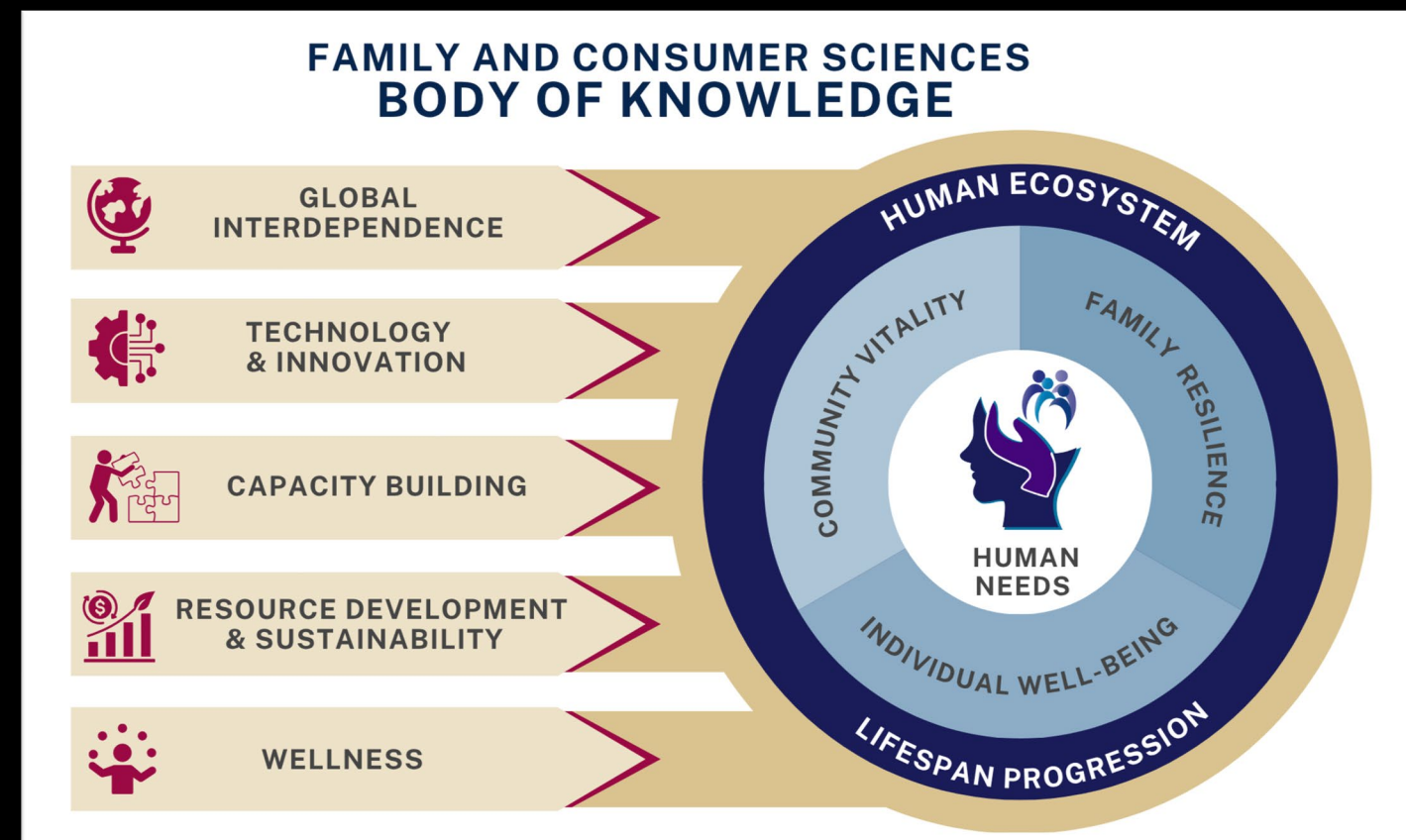
Community volunteers and mentoring

Interactive Reflection

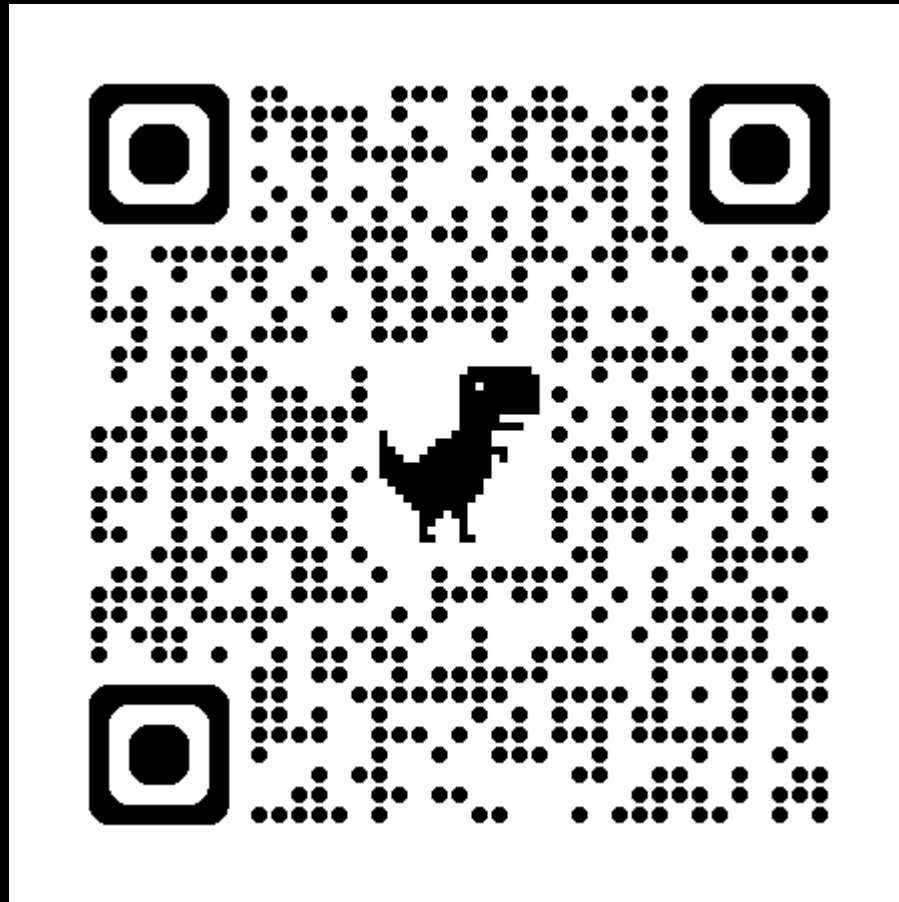
- What barriers exist in your community?
- How could family literacy partnerships grow?
- What role can technology like tonies® play?

Closing Call to Action

- Literacy growth can begin with one shared story
- Supporting parents supports children
- Communities can break the cycle together



Today's Presenter



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THANK YOU

Improving and Enhancing the Human Condition-- One tonie® at a time