

## WHY YOUR LIBRARY MATTERS

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### YOUR LIBRARY HELPS PEOPLE TO READ; PEOPLE WHO READ HAVE A BETTER LIFE:

#### HEALTH:

- Understand written information or pamphlets from your doctor, dentist, or the emergency room
- Understand the instructions on a prescription bottle
- Know what the label says on OTC (over the counter) medicine
- Be able to manage a chronic illness for yourself or someone else (such as asthma, diabetes, etc.)

#### LEARNING/SCHOOL:

- Parents who read encourage their children to read by their example
- Parents who read to their children give them a head start in understanding reading
- Parents need to be able to understand notes from the teacher/school, forms asking for permission for activities, field trips, etc., and their children's report cards
- Children who read at grade level are much less likely to drop out of school, or become delinquent

#### LIFE SKILLS:

- Ability to pass a DMV test
- Able to read road signs (ex: Road ends 100 feet ahead!)
- Figure out a bus schedule
- Understand a legally binding contract
- Fill out a job application
- If employed: Understand the directions on a machine to operate it safely

Read any safety posters your employer puts up for your benefit

Be able to take any courses your job offers that would give you the ability to advance to a better position

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### CRIME:

- Children who fail to learn to read at grade level are more apt to drop out, and become delinquent/incarcerated (imprisoned)
- Adults who are low – literate are more likely to become incarcerated
- When released from prison, those who did not gain literacy in prison have a harder time finding a job, do not keep the job for as long a time, and earn less than the more literate ex –convict
- Recidivism (being re – arrested and incarcerated) rates are lower for those who have attained literacy while in prison