



## **SCHOLASTIC OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

### **OVERVIEW**

ERF prepares young children to enter kindergarten with the language, cognitive, and early reading skills necessary for reading success.

The goal of the program is to prevent reading failure by providing a high-quality early education to young children, especially children from low-income families.

Funds can only be used for Pre-K and Early Childhood Programs.

### **USE OF FUNDS**

ERF programs are required to support children's development of oral language including vocabulary, phonological awareness, print awareness, and letter knowledge.

ERF programs must conduct the following activities:

1. Provide high-quality oral language and literacy-rich classroom environments.
2. Provide professional development to staff that is based on research knowledge of early language and reading development.
3. Identify and provide activities and instructional materials based on research to develop children's language, cognitive, and early reading skills.
4. Use screening assessments or other appropriate measures to determine whether young children are developing the cognitive skills they need for later reading success.
5. Integrate these materials, activities, tools, and measures into preschool programs.

### **KEY POINTS**

- **ERF is a national competition in which eligible applicants apply directly to the USDOE.**
- **Pre-applications are usually due in April and full applications in June.**
- **The USDOE Federal Review Panel reviews the pre-applications and final applications. It DOES NOT review products or create an approved list of endorsed programs.**
- **Eligible LEAs are identified by states and posted on the USDOE's web site.**

# **Early Childhood Competitive Grant Programs**

## **EARLY READING FIRST (ERF)**

### **FEATURED SCHOLASTIC MATERIALS FOR ERF**

- υ AlphaTales
- υ Building Language for Literacy
- υ Even Start Packs (Spanish)
- υ High Frequency Readers
- υ Learning Side-by-Side
- υ My First Phonics Readers
- υ Reading Starts With Us
- υ ReadingLine Sound & Letter Kit
- υ ReadingLine Vocabulary Kit
- υ Scholastic Early Childhood Program
- υ Scholastic Parent & Child Magazine
- υ Take-Home Literacy Books and Packs
- υ Word Family Tales

More materials aligned to Early Reading First can be found at *Scholastic's Funding Connection*:

[www.scholastic.com/grants](http://www.scholastic.com/grants)