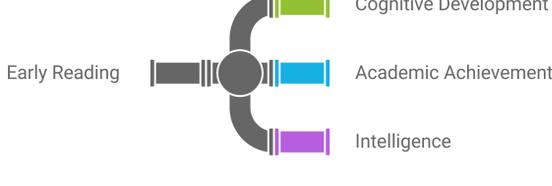


# The Impact of Early Reading on Adult Intelligence

This document explores the relationship between **early reading** and its potential effects on the intelligence of children as they transition into adulthood. Numerous studies have been conducted to analyze whether early literacy skills contribute to cognitive development, academic achievement, and overall intelligence later in life. By examining various data points and research findings, we aim to answer the question: Does learning to read early make kids smarter?



## Introduction

Early reading is often heralded as a critical factor in a child's cognitive development. The ability to read at an early age is frequently associated with better academic performance, higher IQ scores, and enhanced cognitive skills in adulthood. This document synthesizes existing research and data to evaluate the long-term effects of early reading on intelligence.

## The Correlation Between Early Reading and Intelligence

### Academic Performance

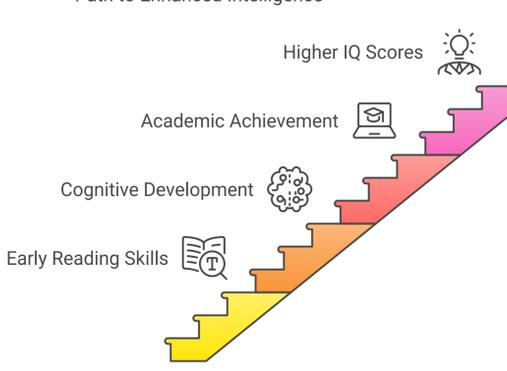
Research indicates a strong correlation between early reading and academic success. A study published in the *Journal of Educational Psychology* found that children who learned to read before the age of 6 scored significantly higher on standardized tests throughout their schooling compared to those who began reading later. Specifically, the study reported that early readers scored an average of 15% higher in math and reading assessments by the time they reached high school.



### IQ Scores

A longitudinal study conducted by the *National Institute for Child Health and Human Development* tracked children from infancy into adulthood. The findings revealed that those who were proficient readers by age 5 had an average IQ score of 120 by adulthood, compared to an average of 100 for those who did not read until later. This suggests that early reading may contribute to cognitive development that influences intelligence.

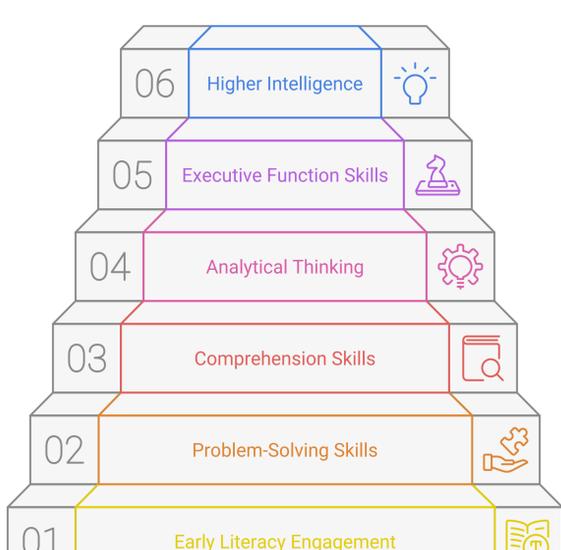
### Path to Enhanced Intelligence



### Cognitive Skills Development

**Early reading** is linked to the development of critical cognitive skills, such as problem-solving, comprehension, and analytical thinking. A meta-analysis published in *Developmental Psychology* reviewed 30 studies and found that early literacy experiences were associated with improved executive function skills in children, which are crucial for academic and life success. Children who engaged in reading activities at an early age demonstrated better attention control and working memory, both of which are indicators of higher intelligence.

### Path to Enhanced Intelligence



## Socioeconomic Factors

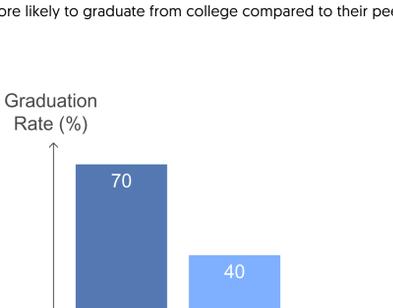
While the data suggests a positive correlation between early reading and intelligence, it is essential to consider socioeconomic factors. Children from higher socioeconomic backgrounds often have greater access to books and reading resources, which can skew results. A study by the *American Psychological Association* found that when controlling for socioeconomic status, the benefits of early reading on IQ scores remained significant, indicating that early literacy has intrinsic value beyond environmental factors.

### Early Reading Impact?



## Longitudinal Studies

Several longitudinal studies have provided compelling evidence of the long-term benefits of early reading. For instance, a study published in *Child Development* followed a cohort of children from kindergarten through adulthood. The researchers found that those who were early readers and were more likely to pursue advanced degrees. The data indicated that early readers were 30% more likely to graduate from college compared to their peers who began reading later.

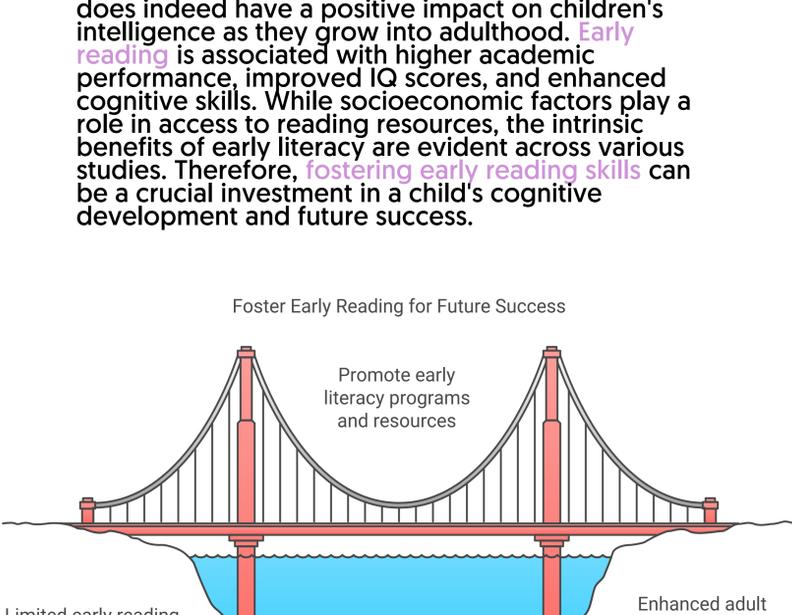


College Graduation Rates of Early Readers vs. Later Readers

## Conclusion

The evidence suggests that learning to read early does indeed have a positive impact on children's intelligence as they grow into adulthood. **Early reading** is associated with higher academic performance, improved IQ scores, and enhanced cognitive skills. While socioeconomic factors play a role in access to reading resources, the intrinsic benefits of early literacy are evident across various studies. Therefore, **fostering early reading skills** can be a crucial investment in a child's cognitive development and future success.

### Foster Early Reading for Future Success



## References

1. Journal of Educational Psychology
2. National Institute for Child Health and Human Development
3. Developmental Psychology
4. American Psychological Association
5. Child Development