



SHORT THE SQUIRREL

Alabama's Literacy Mascot

Waiting time is reading time!



shortthesquirrel.com



A "SHORT" HISTORY: Dr. Dee Dupree Bennett and Monica Anderson Young have created a literacy initiative for Alabama called SHORT the Squirrel. The idea originated in Mobile, where Monica's daughter, McRae Young, a young assistant district attorney, noticed how many children were languishing in courtrooms with idle time since electronics are not allowed, and many families did not pack anything to fill the time. The initiative received Governor Ivey's endorsement, and SHORT was named Alabama's Literacy Mascot!



CELEBRATING READING: In 2021 over 30,000 children learned about SHORT through an interactive virtual reading pep rally as a birthday celebration across the state for SHORT's first birthday – a reading pep rally filmed in Montgomery's Rosa Parks Theatre where some beloved university mascots wished SHORT a happy birthday. In 2022, 35,000 Alabama children celebrated SHORT's second birthday with a Mardi Gras-themed birthday parade. SHORT makes in-squirrel and virtual visits to schools and summer reading camps to promote reading.



INTERACTIVE MATERIALS: While the idea started as providing activity sheets for the Mobile courtrooms, SHORT the Squirrel has grown exponentially in scope. The first literacy kit, *SHORT in Court*, is in all 67 Alabama courtrooms through the Alabama Law Foundation. Based on the premise that waiting time is reading time, *SHORT Gets Sick* launched in partnership with Birmingham's Children's Hospital ER. *SHORT Recycles* was piloted in Troy City Schools as part of an Earth Day celebration. *SHORT's Money Tree* introduces financial literacy and is a joint project with Alabama's Securities Commission. *SHORT's Feelings* was released in Summer 2022 through a partnership with Alabama NAMI/Department of Mental Health. Next up, *SHORT on Alabama Waterways* with RC&D and *SHORT Tours the Town*, sponsored by Alabama Power.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS: SHORT's true mission is to blanket communities with literacy kits. Please share these opportunities with business leaders you know who can turn waiting time into reading time!

- Follow SHORT the Squirrel on [social media](#).
- Watch his videos on [YouTube](#).
- Stay connected using the educator friendly [website](#).
- Share SHORT with teachers, community leaders, and business partners.
- Monica Anderson Young and Dr. Dee Dupree Bennett, Co-founders



Reach us at contact@shortthesquirrel.com