



REACH OUT AND READ PREPARES AMERICA'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL BY PARTNERING WITH DOCTORS TO PRESCRIBE BOOKS AND ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO READ TOGETHER

Fact Sheet

The Problem

- Parents of children living in poverty may lack the money to buy books, may not have easy access to good children's book, and may themselves have not been read to as children.
- Reading problems may mean school failure, which increases the risk of absenteeism, dropping out, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy--all of which perpetuate the cycle of poverty and dependency.

How ROR Helps

- Reach Out and Read (ROR) is a program that makes early literacy part of pediatric primary care.
- Pediatricians in hospital or health care settings encourage parents to read aloud to their young children and give their patients books to take home at all pediatric check-ups from six months to five years of age.
- Through ROR, every child starts school with a home library of at least ten beautiful children's books, and parents understand that reading aloud is the most important thing they can do to help their children learn to love books and to start school ready to learn.

How ROR Works

- Volunteer readers in the clinic waiting room read aloud to children as they wait for their appointments, showing parents and children the pleasures and techniques of looking at books.
- Pediatricians are trained to counsel parents about the importance of reading with young children, offering age-appropriate tips and encouragement.
- The doctor gives the child a new developmentally and culturally appropriate children's book to take home and keep at every check-up from six months to five years of age.

ROR Background

- Reach Out and Read was developed at Boston City Hospital (now Boston Medical Center) in 1989 by a collaboration of pediatricians and early childhood educators.

About ROR of Greater New York

- Service to over 265,000 children and their families each year
- Close to 425,000 books have been given out to disadvantaged families in the last year
- Since 1997, over 5,400 pediatricians and other medical providers trained
- Located throughout New York City, Long Island, and seven counties north of the city- Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster and Sullivan
- Started 181 Reach Out and Read of Greater New York Program Sites

For more information:

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