



**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 Reach Out and Read Helps

- Reach Out and Read 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 Reach Out and Read, 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 Reach Out and Read Works

- In the pediatric exam room, pediatricians trained in the developmental strategies of early literacy encourage and guide parents in reading aloud to children;
- Pediatricians give every child, ages 6 months through 5 years, a new, developmentally- and culturally-appropriate children's book to take home and keep;
- Parents incorporate advice received during pediatric visits and make reading aloud part of their daily routine. Our families read up to 350 hours with their children prior to kindergarten.

Reach Out and Read 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 Reach Out and Read of Greater New York

- Responsible for developing and sustaining Reach Out and Read programs throughout New York City, Long Island, and seven counties north of the city: Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster and Sullivan
- Service to over a quarter of a million children and their families each year
- Over 415,000 books given out to disadvantaged families in the last year
- Since 1997, over 5,500 pediatricians and other medical providers trained
- 180 active Reach Out and Read Program Sites in the Greater New York region

For more information:

Reach Out and Read of Greater New York
30 East 33rd, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10016
Phone: 646-237-0103 Fax: 212-725-9744
www.reachoutandreadnyc.org