

Reach Out and Read Fast Facts

Reach Out and Read prepares central Ohio's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with pediatricians who prescribe new books during routine well child visits and encourage families to read together.

National Reach Out and Read Model:

- Reach Out and Read Programs are located in more than 4,688 hospitals and health centers in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical professionals incorporate Reach Out and Read's evidence-based model into regular pediatric checkups.
- The program begins at the 6-month checkup and continues through age 5, with a special emphasis on children growing up in low-income communities.
- The Reach Out and Read model is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

The Impact on central Ohio:

- Nationwide Children's Hospital pediatricians prescribe more than 50,000 new books each year.
- Since inception in 1989, more than 1,200,000 books have been distributed through our Reach Out and Read Program.
- In 2011, 93,000 gently-used books were given away through our primary care centers.
- More than 252 volunteers engaged patients in literacy and music related activities, generously contributing more than 6,100 volunteer hours.

The Challenge:

- 46% of central Ohio children enter school at risk for academic failure.
- A typical middle-class 5 year old is able to identify 22 letters and sounds of the alphabet compared to just 9 letters for a child from a low-income family (Ehri-Roberts, 2006).
- Children who cannot read at a 3rd grade level by age 8 are exponentially more likely to enter the prison system. A number of states use the number of children not reading at grade level by the 3rd grade to forecast prison space needs (Ohio Governor's Forum, 2008).

The Research-Proven School Readiness Strategy:

- Research findings from 14 published, peer-reviewed studies clearly demonstrate the Reach Out and Read model works.
- Parents who receive Reach Out and Read intervention read to their children up to 40% more often.
- Children served by Reach Out and Read score significantly higher on vocabulary tests. This increase represents a six-month developmental gain for children in the preschool years. No other early intervention has this type of evidence base or impact.

For more information, visit
www.NationwideChildrens.org/ReachOutandRead

