



where great stories begin™

## OUR MISSION

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.

### WHO WE ARE

- Reach Out and Read is a nonprofit organization that trains and supports medical providers who give books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud at well-child exams.
- Our organization builds on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers to develop essential early literacy skills in young children via the existing healthcare infrastructure. Each year, Reach Out and Read serves **4 million children across all 50 states**, focusing on those in low-income families.

### WHAT WE DO

- During regular pediatric checkups, Reach Out and Read pediatricians, family physicians, and nurse practitioners give new, developmentally-appropriate books to children, ages 6 months through 5 years, and advise parents about the importance of reading aloud.
- As a result of this evidence-based intervention, parents learn new ways to stimulate their children's literacy development, have more books in their home, and read to their children more. Parents are supported as their children's first and most important teachers, and children grow up to become readers.

### WHY WE DO IT

- The first five years of life offer a critical window for learning, with rapid brain development that does not occur at any other time. Many children, especially from low-income families, are not read to from birth. Children who grow up without sufficient exposure to language arrive at school without basic literacy skills, and often struggle with reading in early grades.
- Reach Out and Read delivers results. Our program is a proven intervention, supported by **15 independent, published research studies**. During the preschool years, children served by Reach Out and Read score three to six months ahead of their non-Reach Out and Read peers on vocabulary tests, preparing them to start school on target.
- Reach Out and Read medical providers work with families to prepare all children to enter kindergarten ready to read, learn, and succeed. **Research shows that children who start school on track are more likely to reach their full educational, social, and life potential.**

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**THE ANNUAL IMPACT: 4 MILLION** CHILDREN SERVED. **6.5 MILLION** BOOKS DISTRIBUTED. **20 THOUSAND** MEDICAL PROVIDERS. **5 THOUSAND** PROGRAM SITES. **50** STATES AND D.C.

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For more information, visit [www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org)

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