



*"Beautiful board and story books are as much a part of my 'doctor bag' as my stethoscope and reflex hammer. Reach Out and Read is fun, cost effective, and most importantly, it works!"*

Dr. Mary Ann Woodruff  
Medical Director

### Current Impact in Washington

- 104 medical practice locations
- 24 counties with programs
- More than 640 medical providers participating
- More than 48,000 books prescribed in past 6 months



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.

### The Reach Out and Read Program Model

- At every checkup, Reach Out and Read (ROR) doctors and other primary care providers talk with parents about the importance of reading aloud to their young children, and offer age-appropriate tips and encouragement
- At each well-child visit from 6 months through 5 years of age, medical providers give children a new, developmentally and culturally appropriate book to take home
- The waiting room is made into a literacy-rich environment with posters, gently used books, library information, and volunteer readers where feasible

### An Evidence-Based School Readiness Program

Fourteen research studies show that Reach Out and Read works. Compared to those not receiving ROR, when families participate

- Parents have more positive attitudes toward books and reading to their children
- Parents read to their children more often
- Children show significant improvement in language skills

### The Need to Promote Early Literacy through the Medical Home

- Less than half of children arrive at kindergarten ready for success, and early language skills are essential for healthy development and school readiness
- Most children visit the doctor regularly in the first 5 years of life, and more than half of children born in Washington qualify for Medicaid services
- Most Washington parents trust their child's health care provider as a source of early learning information (71%), and 69% of parents want information about how to support their child's early reading and skills (2008 Washington State Department of Early Learning parent needs survey)

### Serving Diverse Populations in Culturally Relevant Ways

- Each clinic provides books which are developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate for the families it serves
- Reach Out and Read programs are in urban, rural and suburban settings; serving families from many linguistic and cultural groups, including English language learners, bilingual populations, and immigrant and refugee families
- There are 12 tribal programs in Washington, partnering with tribes and the national American Indian/Alaska Native Reach Out and Read coalition
- Reach Out and Read supports active duty and reserve military families at 5 military facilities: Madigan Army Hospital, McChord Air Force Base, Bremerton Navy Hospital, Bremerton Navy-Bangor, and Fairchild Air Force Base, partnering with the national Reach Out and Read military initiative
- Partnering with the national *Leyendo Juntos* initiative to enhance program quality, Reach Out and Read serves a large Spanish-speaking population across the state
- Over 70% of the families served currently in Washington are low-income

### Reach Out and Read Washington State

Established in 2007, ROR Washington State organizes its work around four strategies

- **Access:** Recruiting and training medical practices to start Reach Out and Read
- **Quality:** Assuring high quality programs through training and technical assistance
- **Sustainability:** Sustaining programs through statewide fundraising and support
- **Integration:** Collaborating with state and local, public and private partners so that Reach Out and Read programs are integrated with early learning efforts, and doctors are engaged in early learning

**For more information, contact Reach Out and Read Washington State**

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Visit our website: [www.reachoutandreadwa.org](http://www.reachoutandreadwa.org)

Reach Out and Read Washington State is part of the national Reach Out and Read program