



where great stories begin™

REACH OUT AND READ AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE INITIATIVE

Developed in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics and Indian Health Services, the American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) Initiative provides the highly effective Reach Out and Read early literacy model to Native American families nationwide.

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. **Nationwide, we serve 4 million children via 12,000 medical providers at nearly 5,000 program sites.**
- 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 critical advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud.

WHAT WE DO TO SUPPORT AI/AN FAMILIES

- Reach Out and Read builds on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers to develop essential early literacy skills in young children via the existing Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal healthcare infrastructure, which provides services to approximately 75 percent of AI/AN children.
- Reach Out and Read AI/AN program sites serve **more than 60,000 AI/AN children and families at 215 IHS and tribal clinics** nationwide. Nearly **700 doctors and nurses** provide **more than 120,000 books** to AI/AN children and their families each year.
- 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 AI/AN families on reservations, 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.
- As a group, AI/AN children have the poorest test scores, lowest high school graduation rates, and worst college entry/graduation rates of any minority group in the United States, making early education and early literacy programs like Reach Out and Read critical.
- 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 ready to read and succeed.

For more information, visit www.reachoutandread.org

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