

Every Child Read to Every Day!

With your help, together we can ensure that all children, regardless of their socioeconomic status, cultural background, or language, have the opportunity to learn to read.



Dive into Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Individual Opportunity / Virtual Opportunity

Reading is more than fundamental. It provides the opportunity to teach our children about kindness, compassion, and empathy for others, and that diversity of stories matter. All children should see themselves as the stars of their own stories yet more than three-quarters of children's books are about White/Caucasian people (77%), with less than a quarter about people of color (23%). Increasing access to diverse stories isn't just an ethical responsibility – it's a medical one. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, we must build inclusive literacy programs that reflect the diversity of children in our communities if we are to reduce the damaging impacts of racism on public health.



By joining our Mirrors and Windows Book Club, you can help us change the narrative so families include diversity, equity, and inclusion in their daily interactions with their children starting the day they are born. With a donation of \$50 or more to our [Mirrors and Windows Fund](#), you will be providing diverse and socially responsive books to children, incorporating these important topics into their daily lives from birth. As a member of our Mirrors and Windows Book Club, you will have access to our online Mirrors and Windows book drive where you can organize your own virtual book drive to raise funds for diverse and socially responsive books for children. You can help us change the narrative one book and one child at a time.



Spread the word! Become a Social Media Ambassador COMING SOON

Individual Opportunity / Virtual Opportunity

Now more than ever, we need your help to spread the word about the importance of daily shared reading. We know that your words are far more powerful and influential than ours. Your family, friends, and colleagues want to hear from YOU, in your own words, about why reading is so important to you and why you support Reach Out and Read and our mission.



Join our team of ambassadors by sharing information and stories online, at least twice a month, to raise awareness of the importance of literacy, daily shared reading, and positive parent-child engagement. It's easy! Simply speak from the heart about Reach Out and Read's mission and share your own stories and photos about reading, being read to, or reading with special children in your life. We'll provide you with some literacy statistics and photos to help you get started. Your family and friends on your personal social media networks or colleagues on your internal workplace social platforms will enjoy your pictures, stories, and advocacy. You will educate and inspire them to read aloud with a special child in their life. Although this volunteer task is simple, the profile-raising for daily shared reading and Reach Out and Read is invaluable. Thank you!

Build a Book Oasis

Individual or Group Opportunity / Virtual Opportunity

Did you know there are geographic areas right here in the United States that lack consistent access to high-quality, affordable, print children's books and other print reading materials? These are called Book Deserts and sadly, they are real.

- In high-poverty communities, there is **only one book for every 300 children**. (In high-income communities, there are about 13 books for every child.)
- **45% of our nation's children** live in neighborhoods that lack public libraries and stores that sell books, or in homes where books are an unaffordable or unfamiliar luxury.
- **67% of the schools and programs** in our nation's lowest-income neighborhoods can't afford to buy books at retail prices.
- **32.4 million American children go without books.**

Among many other things, books give children strong minds and hearts. We need your help to build book oases so all children grow up with plenty of books in their home, plenty of knowledge in their minds, and plenty of love in their hearts. Click [here](#) to start building a book oasis.

Organize a Gently Used Book Drive

Individual or Group Opportunity / In-person Opportunity

Reach Out and Read gives new books to children during their well-child checkups, however, we also encourage our clinics to have gently-used children's books available. Gently used children's books are used in waiting and exam rooms, given to older siblings, provided at sick visits, or simply used help to build a child's home library. Volunteers of all ages can host a new or gently-used book drive through their own personal networks, community groups, schools, or businesses. This is also a wonderful opportunity for older children to help younger children by organizing a book drive through their school, Girl or Boy Scouts, or any club they belong to. Book drives can last days, weeks, or even months, and can also be tied into a holiday or event. Click [here](#) to kick off your gently used book drive today!





Motivate Through Personalized Notes

Individual or Group Opportunity / Virtual Opportunity

Cheer our parents on and encourage them to read, sing, and play every day with their children. For many parents, it isn't easy or intuitive to read aloud with their baby or sing or play with them. A little encouragement and confidence can go a long way. **You can make a difference in a parent's life by personalizing a postcard.** This is a simple but powerful way to engage in our mission and truly make a difference in both the life of a child and an adult. Reach out to christine.hughes@reachoutandread.org to get writing.

Become a Book Buddy

Individual Opportunity / Virtual Opportunity

Reading is a right, yet **1 in 4 children in America** grow up without learning how to read. We need to change this! Reading aloud to a child is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading. Reading together furthers language acquisition, promotes healthy brain and social-emotional development, provides an opportunity for families to build powerful, lasting bonds, and mitigates the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Social Determinants of Health. By becoming a Book Buddy, you can help ensure that all children, regardless of their socioeconomic status, cultural background, or language, have the opportunity to learn to read. Reading is a right, not a privilege. [Become](#) a Book Buddy today!



Listen and Learn - Subscribe to our Podcast

Individual Opportunity / Virtual Opportunity

Reach Out and Read is on the air, engaging in conversations with experts in childhood health and literacy. Our podcast is centered on the belief that children's books build better brains, stronger family relationships, and happier, healthier children and societies. [Join us](#) as host Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, a pediatrician with a children's librarianship degree dives into a wealth of varied early childhood health and literacy topics with expert guests examining the many facets of supporting the parent-child relationship as key to early success.



Extra, Extra, Read All About It!

Individual Opportunity / Virtual Opportunity

Stay informed about all things Reach Out and Read by [subscribing](#) to our newsletter. This is a great way to start to get involved, learn about our work, and see where you are interested in doing more.