



Reach Out and Read Washington State

Reading is Doctor-Recommended

ACTION REQUESTED: Support early learning through \$300,000 biennial appropriation to continue Reach Out and Read programs across Washington State



"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
Tacoma, WA

Current Impact in Washington

- 116 medical practice locations
- 28 counties with programs
- More than 65,000 children served/yr
- More than 700 medical providers participating
- Includes 14 Tribal, 6 Military, and 46 Community Health Center programs



An Evidence-Based Early Literacy Program in Doctors' Offices

At each check-up from age 6 months through 5 years

Books for Children: Doctors and other primary care providers give each young child a **brand new book** to take home and keep

Advice and Support for Parents: Doctors talk with parents about the importance of reading aloud, and give age appropriate tips

Early Literacy Skills: Helps families and communities encourage early literacy skills by building on the unique relationships between parents and their children's doctors

\$300,000 to support Reach Out and Read in a biennium

- **Maintains** state funding that **leverages over \$1.2 million** in federal and private funding
- **Leverages professional time** of over 700 medical providers who *volunteer* to implement Reach Out and Read. If each one-on-one visit with a family were valued at \$25, this in-kind professional time is over **\$6.5 million dollars**
- **Builds community partnerships** to support parents as their child's first teacher, integrate doctors into education efforts, and build a statewide early learning system

A Strategic Investment in Early Learning

- A priority 2011 Early Learning Strategy for DEL, OSPI, and Thrive by Five
- Strengthens Washington's competitiveness for Striving Readers federal funding
- A vital part of a seamless educational system, starting from birth

Reach Out and Read is a Research-Proven School Readiness Initiative

- Science is unanimous - the single most important thing that parents can do to prepare their children to succeed in school is to read aloud with them when they are young
- 14 published research studies have shown Reach Out and Read's effectiveness: parents read aloud more often; children show significant improvement in language skills

Provides Support Washington Parents Want

Washington State Department of Early Learning Parent Survey shows

- More parents trust and want to receive early learning information from their child's health care provider than any other source (71%)
- Washington parents want information about how to support their child's early reading and skills (69%)

Reach Out and Read Washington State is the best of what a statewide program can offer: **a research-proven, cost effective, public-private partnership**

Less than \$15 per child per year

State government is an essential partner
leveraging hundreds of thousands of federal and private dollars

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