

# Spring 2021 Provider Newsletter



## The 2020 Annual Report

We're excited to share our commemorative [20<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual report with you](#) (<https://bit.ly/31jZJ19>). Be on the lookout—a mailed copy is coming your way soon!

Thanks to your partnership and continued funding from the Libra Foundation, we've made quite an impact over 20 years. We've reached more than 290,000 children with over 3 million books through all midwives, hospitals, and healthcare providers serving Maine children. The year itself brought numerous challenges with the global pandemic but thanks to your help, Raising Readers remains a constant in the lives of healthcare providers, families and children.

## Calling Clinical Champions

Raising Readers Clinical champions are doctors, physician's assistants, or nurse practitioners who have a passion for early literacy and sharing the love of books and reading. If you have an interest in connecting with your professional or home communities about the importance of family read-aloud experiences, early literacy and brain development, we'd love to hear from you! Send us an email: [info@raisingreaders.org](mailto:info@raisingreaders.org).

## Best Practices from our Clinical Champions

- Hand out the book at the beginning of the visit and read a page or two to model reading behavior for the parent/caregiver.
- Allow the child to interact with the book during the visit to assist in your developmental assessment.
- Encourage parents and other caregivers to read, talk, sing and play with their children everyday, as much as possible, beginning at birth.
- Sign the bookplate during the visit to draw attention and add more meaning to the gift.
- Familiarize yourself with the evidence on the importance of reading, talking, singing, and playing with children and how practice-based literacy promotion creates and reinforces optimal synapses in children's developing brains.



## We'd Like to Hear your Recommendations!

In collaboration with the Maine State Library, we're updating the Doctor Recommended book list that is featured on the Raising Readers website under "search our books". This downloadable book list addresses a variety of topics from adoption to starting school to the loss of a pet. Each book listed is reviewed by the Raising Readers advisors. [Follow this link](#) (<https://bit.ly/3fh3Uml>) to share titles you'd like us to consider.



## Research Corner

[Creating Practical Primary Care Supports for Parent-Child Relationships—Language, Literacy, and Love](#)

<https://bit.ly/3w5149Z>

This opinion publication from Perri Klass, MD and Dipesh Navsaria, MD places the work of Reach Out and Read firmly in the realm of supporting safe, stable, nurturing parent-child relationships.

[Do Book Giveaway Programs Promote the Home Literacy Environment and Children's Literacy-Related Behavior and Skills?](#)

<https://bit.ly/3u0lm2v>

A study comparing the evidence supporting the impact of three "book giveaway" programs on the home literacy environment and children's literacy-related behavior and skills. The report provides strong evidence that the greatest impact requires a 2-generational approach that both supports the parents' skills and provides the book for the child.

## Raising Readers' Clinical Advisors

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