



Reach Out and Read

American Indian/Alaska Native Coalition

reachoutandread.org

The Reach Out and Read Model in Action

- Doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical professionals incorporate **Reach Out and Read's** evidence-based model into regular pediatric checkups, by **advising parents about the importance of reading aloud** and giving developmentally-appropriate books to children.
- The program begins at the 6-month checkup and continues through age 5, with a special **emphasis on children growing up in low-income communities**.
- Families served by **Reach Out and Read** read together more often, and their children enter kindergarten with larger vocabularies, stronger language skills, and a **six-month developmental edge**.

Clear Need to Promote and Encourage Early Literacy among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Children

- 80 percent of AI/AN children on reservations live in families with incomes **below 200 percent** of the federal poverty line.
- AI/AN children, as a group, have some of the **lowest test scores**, the **lowest high school graduation rates**, and the **lowest college entry and graduation rates** of any minority group in the United States.
- Early language development is recognized as essential for later school achievement of young children. Fourteen published research studies show **Reach Out and Read** to be a highly effective strategy for school readiness.
- Indian Health Service/Tribal/Urban (I/T/U) clinics care for 75 percent of AI/AN children, and provide an established infrastructure to reach this population. Currently, 200 of the approximately 400 I/T/U clinics have implemented **Reach Out and Read** in their healthcare setting.
- There are **limited AI/AN-themed children's books** available, and those that exist are often quite expensive.

The Impact Within Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Clinics

- **200 IHS and tribal clinics** currently participate in **Reach Out and Read**.
- More than **49,000 AI/AN** children benefit from **Reach Out and Read** annually.
- More than **95,500** new, developmentally-appropriate books are distributed to AI/AN children annually.

The American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Coalition

This Coalition, specifically focused on AI/AN children, was developed in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics and serves four primary functions:

- Providing **Site-based training, technical assistance, and quality improvement visits** to I/T/U Programs.
- Securing funding for each Program's annual book budget. Most I/T/U clinics are under-funded and lack the discretionary funds to purchase **Reach Out and Read** books.
- Expanding the **Reach Out and Read** program to additional I/T/U clinics across the country.
- Increasing availability and affordability of books with Native American themes and/or written in Native American languages.

For more information, contact the Reach Out and Read National Center

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