



where great stories begin™

CREATING A LITERACY-RICH WAITING ROOM ON A BUDGET

Literacy-rich waiting rooms are a great way to enhance Reach Out and Read program sites and encourage families to read together. Here are a few tips for creating your own literacy-rich waiting area on any budget.

Literacy-Rich Waiting Area Ideas Under \$50

- Parent Resource Guide Materials
 - Reach Out and Read Developmental Milestones sheet or bookmarks
 - Reach Out and Read Reading Tips sheet
 - Local library information, hours, addresses, and story times
 - Flyers from other education, early intervention, or adult literacy programs
 - AAP pamphlets on developmental screening
- Gently-used books for patients and siblings to bring home
- Reach Out and Read posters and banners
- Questions displayed around the waiting room that further children's thinking about stories they already love.
- Multicolored milk crates from dollar store for used book storage/seating
- Black and white copies of pages from books that children may use as coloring sheets, and volunteers can use to ask questions that expand on the text.
- Child-centered magazines, such as Discovery Kids, Highlights, My Big Backyard, Cricket, and Wondertime



Under \$100 (Includes everything above, plus the following)



- Bean Bag Chair
- Bulletin Boards with Literacy Themes
- Felt Board with Laminated Characters
- Puppets for Volunteer Readers
- Laminated Color Copies of Classic stories for use with Dry Erase Markers
- Have staff wear Reach Out and Read shirts

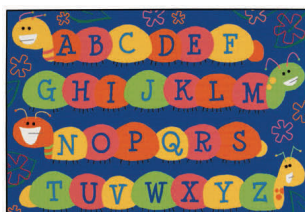
Under \$350 (Includes everything above, plus the following)



- Area rug
- Bookshelf for children's books
- Rolling literacy cart
- Grab and Write Dry Erase Kits
- Story Boards with felt characters (or laminated with Velcro as JACHO requirements allow)

Under \$750 (Includes everything above, plus the following)

- Large Area Rug
- Child size table and chairs
- Book case



Resources and Websites

Be sure to check out myROR.org for templates, resources, and materials for your Reach Out and Read program. The ROR Store and Documents Library offer lots of great ideas.

www.myror.org/store_merch.aspx

www.myror.org/admin/filelibrary.aspx

Posters

▪ You can also purchase used classic children's books at thrift stores, remove the pages with eye-catching illustrations, frame, and hang in your waiting area.

www.getcaughtreading.org/

www.alastore.ala.org/

www.demco.com/

www.bit.ly/1boNNr8 (link to Scholastic Read Every Day posters)

Furniture and Rugs

▪ School Outfitters offers a special Reach Out and Read Catalog and 3% discount to our participating program sites. Contact your Coalition/Regional Leader or email jeff.boleyn@schooloutfitters.com for a PDF of the catalog and more info.

▪ Stores like Target, Ikea, Wal-Mart, etc., also sell child-sized furniture.

www.kaplanco.com

www.lakeshore.com

www.demco.com

www.ecmdstore.com

www.childrenscarpet.com

Resources, Activities, and Materials

▪ Ask your local library for additional ideas and suggestions.

www.readingrockets.org

www.cpcbooks.org

www.pbskids.org

www.childcraftededucation.com

www.raisingareader.corecommerce.com

www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources