



**The Mission ■ Reach Out and Read® makes literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric primary care, so that children grow up with books and a love of reading.**

## Literacy-Rich Waiting Rooms

- ROR begins in the waiting room! Children and parents often spend a fair amount of time in the waiting room, so it's an ideal opportunity to reinforce the doctor's message about the importance of early literacy.
- The ROR model includes taking full advantage of this time by providing children with an opportunity to enjoy books and offering important information to parents about how to read aloud to their young children, and posting information on the library and other literacy resources in the community.
- Ideally, ROR waiting rooms also incorporate volunteer readers, who engage children's interest in books and demonstrate what an enjoyable activity reading can be for parents and children alike.

## How does a Site create a literacy-rich waiting room?

- The single most effective thing that Sites can do to enhance their waiting rooms is to recruit volunteers to read at peak hours to children and model read-aloud skills for parents.
- Provide special, oversized read-aloud books, including bilingual books, for volunteer readers.
- Designate a special reading area for children, which might include a rug (alphabet rugs work especially well), a child-friendly table and chairs, and a place for books, such as small bookshelves or baskets.
- Obtain books for the waiting room through used book drives, or donations from staff, local families, community groups, and businesses.
- Decorate your walls with ROR milestones posters, photos of families reading together, copies of children's book covers, or other children's art.
- Lay out children's magazines and parenting magazines.
- Post information about your local library (location, story hours, special events, library card applications) and local adult literacy programs.
- Invite a local celebrity or a favorite storybook character like Clifford to visit your clinic.

## Who can help create a literacy-rich waiting room for a Site with a limited budget?

- Junior League members, senior citizens, hospital volunteers, medical students and residents, friends and family of staff, and high school and college students can all become volunteer readers or donate used books. Advertise the opportunity in newspapers, at local libraries, or on online volunteer networks.
- Photographers can donate their photography of children and families reading together.
- Art students or artists can create murals with literary themes or characters.
- Scouting groups and faith-based youth groups can build bookshelves and children's furniture, paint walls, and create reading nooks.
- Community organizations can host gently-used book drives.

**For much more information on recruiting and training volunteers, waiting room improvements for any budget, or links to vendors of waiting room furniture, visit the Literacy-Rich Waiting Room Resource Center on myROR.org.**

## Reach Out and Read National Center

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