



Reach Out and Read in the Military

Our Military Families Deserve Nothing but the Best

The Reach Out and Read (ROR) Model

- In the exam room, doctors and nurses trained in the developmental strategies of early literacy encourage parents to read aloud to their young children, and offer age-appropriate tips.
- The pediatric primary care provider gives every child ages 6 months through 5 years a new, developmentally-appropriate children's book to take home and keep.
- In the waiting room, displays, information, and gently-used books create a literacy-rich environment. Where possible, volunteer readers entertain the children, modeling for the parents the pleasures – and techniques – of reading aloud.

The Impact in the Military

- 35 military bases around the world currently participate in ROR.
- More than 90,000 children of military families participate in ROR annually.
- More than 180,000 new, developmentally-appropriate books are distributed to children on military bases annually.
- To date, more than 600 military healthcare providers have been trained in the ROR model of early literacy promotion.
- ROR also serves National Guard/Reserve families nationwide through our ROR civilian Programs.

The Impact Nationwide as of March 2009

- There are more than 4,535 ROR Programs based on the ROR model at clinics, hospitals, and health centers in 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- ROR serves more than 3.8 million children annually.
- More than 6 million new, developmentally-appropriate books are given to families annually.
- To date, more than 52,000 physicians, nurses, residents, and health professionals have been trained in the ROR model of early literacy promotion.

The Challenge: Help Military Families Cope in Difficult Times

- Early language skills are essential for the healthy development of young children, and ROR is the standard for promoting these skills through a healthcare setting. More than a decade of published medical research shows ROR to be a highly-effective school readiness strategy.
- The military healthcare system provides full and systematic primary care for the children of military families. ROR has the potential to reach all these children, without building additional infrastructure, through a system parents already know.
- ROR sets the standard for military families by capitalizing on the goal of an enhanced patient-centered medical home which values the partnership between a doctor and a patient. When a military provider talks to parents about the importance of early literacy, the message comes across loud and clear!
- ROR presents a unique opportunity to support and strengthen military families with young children. ROR helps parents understand developmental stages, build routines which reassure children, and develop skills and knowledge that are essential for families being tested by multiple deployments, separation, and reintegration.
- Reading aloud to children is a proven technique to help them cope with stress and anxiety, associated with difficult periods. **Military families face unique challenges and deserve to have Reach Out and Read as a standard part of the pediatric care provided to their young children.**