



# Reach Out and Read in the Military

## Our Military Families Deserve Nothing But the Best

[reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org)  
[reachoutandread.org/military](http://reachoutandread.org/military)

### 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.
- 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**.

### The Impact in the Military

- **55 U.S. military bases** around the world currently participate in **Reach Out and Read**.
- **More than 109,000 children** of military families participate in **Reach Out and Read** annually.
- **More than 200,000** new, developmentally-appropriate books are distributed to children on military bases annually.
- **More than 400 military healthcare providers** currently participate in **Reach Out and Read**.
- **Reach Out and Read** also serves National Guard/Reserve families nationwide through our civilian Programs.

### The National Impact as of November 2011

- **Reach Out and Read** Programs are located in more than **4,700 hospitals and health centers** in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- **Reach Out and Read** serves more than **3.9 million children** and families annually.
- More than **6.4 million** new, developmentally-appropriate books are given to children annually.
- More than **28,000 medical providers** currently participate in **Reach Out and Read**.
- Community volunteers dedicate more than **270,000 hours** of service to **Reach Out and Read** annually.

### The Challenge: Help Military Families Cope in Difficult Times

- Early language skills are essential for the healthy development of young children, and **Reach Out and Read** is the standard for promoting these skills through a healthcare setting. Fourteen published research studies show **Reach Out and Read** to be a highly-effective school readiness strategy.
- The military healthcare system provides full and systematic primary care for the children of military families. **Reach Out and Read** has the potential to reach all these children, without building additional infrastructure, through a system parents already know and trust.
- **Reach Out and Read** 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!
- **Reach Out and Read** presents a unique opportunity to support and strengthen military families with young children. We help 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.**

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

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