REACH OUT AND READ: EVIDENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Research shows that when pediatricians promote literacy readiness according to the Reach Out and Read model, there is a significant effect on parental behavior and attitudes toward reading aloud, as well as improvements in the language scores of young children who participate. These effects have been found in ethnically and economically diverse families nationwide. The body of published research supporting the efficacy of the Reach Out and Read model is more extensive than for any other psychosocial intervention in general pediatrics. To read the 15 complete articles, visit reachoutandread.org/why-we-work/research-findings/.

The following highlighted studies by independent academic researchers have been published in peer-reviewed medical journals:

REACH OUT AND READ: CHANGING CHILD OUTCOMES


High et al., *Pediatrics* Families participating in the Reach Out and Read model read to their children more often (4.3 vs. 3.8 days/week), and their toddlers’ receptive and expressive vocabulary scores were higher. This effect held in parents of different levels of education and English proficiency.

REACH OUT AND READ: CHANGING PARENTAL ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES

High et al., *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* Parents whose children (< 3 years) had received books and educational materials during well-child visits were more likely than parents in a control group to report that they shared books with their children, and to cite sharing books as a favorite activity or a child’s favorite activity. High P., Hopmann M., LaGasse L., Linn H. “Evaluation of a clinic-based intervention program to promote book sharing and bedtime routines among low-income urban families with young children.” *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 1998; 15, p. 459–465.

Needlman, et al., *American Journal of Diseases of Children* Parents who had received a book as part of Reach Out and Read were more likely to report reading books with their children, or to say that reading was a favorite activity. The benefits of Reach Out and Read were larger for families receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

REACH OUT AND READ: TOWARD BETTER PRIMARY CARE

Jones et al., *Clinical Pediatrics* Parents participating in Reach Out and Read were more likely to rate their child’s pediatrician as helpful than those not participating. Pediatricians in the Reach Out and Read group were more likely to rate parents as receptive than those in the non-Reach Out and Read group. Mothers in the Reach Out and Read group were two times more likely to report enjoyment in reading together with their child than those in the non-Reach Out and Read group.

King et al., *Academic Pediatrics* Successful implementation of the Reach Out and Read program was related to the culture of the clinic. Staff at clinics that struggled to implement Reach Out and Read found their jobs burdensome and reported lacks in communication. Staff at successful Reach Out and Read program sites worked as a team and expressed strong commitments to their communities.

For more information, visit www.reachoutandread.org
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