



Responding to COVID-19

This is a trying time for our communities, our nation, and the world. We believe that the Reach Out and Read mission is as powerful and important as ever during these challenging times.

As a healthcare-based program, we have the utmost respect and support for our medical providers who are working tirelessly to care for patients affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Our clinics and providers remain committed to supporting families with young children, continuing to provide books and encourage reading aloud at every checkup.

Reach Out and Read's work remains critical during this time. It is in such times of anxiety

when children most need to feel safe and loved – and one of the best ways to support and engage children is to read books together. Reading together promotes bonding and builds strong emotional connections. When children are cuddled in the lap of a loving caregiver, enjoying a book together, they feel secure, despite the turmoil in the outside world.

Reading together also builds routines that can help children manage during this uneasy time. Sharing books regularly can provide a sense of routine as many schools close and childcare schedules change, and families spend more time at home. Reach Out and Read provides a simple reminder that spending time together with books can offer a safe harbor, even if just for a few moments.

As always, thank you for your support of Reach Out and Read, ensuring we can continue to provide access to books and precious moments of reading aloud to children and families in our community.

[Click here to read our message to Reach Out and Read sites and providers.](#)

Resources for Parents

The increased time that children and families will spend together over the next few weeks is a terrific opportunity to maximize the effect that attention and nurturing from a loving parent or caregiver has on healthy brain development. We are pleased to share our curated list of resources for parents and families, [which is now available on our website.](#)



Thank You Healthcare Workers!

During this moment when healthcare



workers are caring for patients affected by the coronavirus, keeping up with rapidly evolving medical information, and doing all they can to prevent the spread of infection, we at Reach Out and Read applaud and support them. Please enjoy [this recent article by Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, National Board Member](#), who reminds us of the love that is being shown for others during this time of crisis.

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