



EARLY LITERACY IMPACT

Since 2023, three organizations - Read to Grow, Reach Out and Read, and United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut / Dolly Parton Imagination Library - have joined together to pursue a vision that all of Connecticut's children will have access to books in their homes. With support from the State of Connecticut, we are making progress! Together with nearly 1,000 partners - including hospitals, clinics, nonprofit organizations and childcare providers - we have served nearly 90,000 young children. By providing books and learning resources, we are helping children from birth to age five to gain skills they will need in kindergarten. With continued support from the State of Connecticut, we can continue to ensure that young children have a strong foundation for lifelong learning.



- **Books for Babies reaches 25,000 of the 35,000 babies born annually in Connecticut, giving board books and literacy packets to every baby born in 19 birthing hospitals statewide**
- **Books for Kids and Bookmobile distributed 101,198 books in more than five languages since July 2023**
- **300+ community partners in hospitals, clinics, childcare providers, agencies and other nonprofits**

“It feels really special to have my baby get a book through Read to Grow. Even though I am a teacher I have no experience with babies so your guide was very helpful and reassuring that we are doing the right thing.”
- Parent

“I love how the books are small in size so my baby has an easier time holding the book with me! Also I love that the pictures in the books are of real people, not cartoons.” - Parent

“Through Read to Grow I learned how children learn to talk by reading to them. I also learned how reading helps so much with brain development.” - Parent



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- 101 Clinic site locations, partnering with 594 pediatricians and clinicians
- Serving 60,717 children
- Distributed 111,633 books

“One word our [practice’s] clinicians have used to describe Reach Out and Read is “joy”. The joy we see on our littlest patients’ faces, and the joy we see in their parents’ eyes when their faces light up when they open their new book. The joy our clinicians feel when they are assessing a child’s development and can use the book as a tool. Our whole team gets involved in literacy, from our dental clinic to our mental health care and beyond. Reach Out and Read has brought joy to us all!”
-Child Care Provider



- 4,674 children served in the program
- 78,492 books distributed to families
- Nationally, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library participants show evidence of improved skills directly related to kindergarten readiness, namely letter identification, phonologic awareness and letter naming fluency.

“My daughter definitely shows much more interest to the books she get every month. She wants us to read every single (one) of them, some of them are very special that we have to read again & again for her. This program has been a great success to build my daughter’s interest of book reading. I encourage everyone to sign up for this program as I see mental growth and increased bonding with the books in my child’s case. Reading has brought joy to us all.” - Parent



Together, we can continue to make progress to ensure that all young children in Connecticut have books in their homes. Please consider continuing to invest in our collective efforts. **Contact John Prescod for more information at jprescod@unitedwayinc.org or 860.493.1107.**

