



ABOUT US

Raising a Reader is a national nonprofit that partners with parents and local agencies to create brighter futures for children by strengthening family bonds.

Family engagement is at the core of what we do. Our evidence-based programs help caring adults set their children up for success by creating shared reading routines, fostering social emotional learning, healthy family relationships and learning skills needed to thrive in school and beyond.

Through easy-to-use, multilingual materials and diverse stories, we meet families where they are and make shared reading more engaging and accessible for all children.

Classic Red Book Bag Program Overview

- ▶ Families receive training in how to develop the habit of sharing books with their children.
- ▶ High-quality books are rotated into the home on a weekly basis for families to practice regular book sharing.
- ▶ Families are connected to the local library in order to maintain book borrowing and book sharing practices.

FOUR CORE PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- 1 Local agencies receive training and support to build capacity to engage families in their communities, increasing family engagement and the home-school connection.
- 2 Families gain confidence to share books with children through training and information provided focused on research-based shared reading practices. Meaningful engagement supports families in their role as their child's first and most important teacher.
- 3 Red Book Bags, filled with high-quality, multicultural books that children love, are rotated into homes each week.
- 4 Children are motivated to share books with their families, beginning to develop a love of reading. Children associate reading with a pleasurable experience.

EVIDENCE-BASED

Outcome data from 39 independent evaluations demonstrate that Raising a Reader effectively fosters family engagement and literacy behaviors, promotes connections with local libraries, and develops early language and literacy skills in young children.

SCALABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE

Books and materials are used year after year, making Raising A Reader a cost-effective program for your community. The program can be started for \$115 per child, with an annual average cost per child served over a five-year period of about \$40.

BY THE NUMBERS

- ▶ Nearly **2 million** children reached
- ▶ Almost **300** Affiliate organizations
- ▶ Nearly **200,000** children and families reached yearly
- ▶ **3,000** sites across **34** states

RAISING A READER AFFILIATES

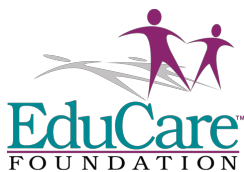
The Raising a Reader program is flexible and can be adapted to meet the unique needs of children and families in diverse settings. Raising a Reader affiliates include:

- Schools, Districts
- Libraries
- Head Start & Early Head Start Programs
- Subsidized Housing Communities
- Community Resource Centers
- Home Visiting Programs
- Migrant Programs
- Home-Based Childcare Programs
- Community-Based Organizations

SELECT AFFILIATES



The Seattle Public Library



FIRST THINGS FIRST



Raising a Reader is such a wonderful program. It gives parents and students a way to engage in conversation, to spend time together, and to learn from each other. It also empowers parents and encourages them to be involved in their student's education. It also gives teachers a way to engage the parents and involve them in their classroom."

Teacher,
Baltimore City Public Schools

The program has helped my son to get more excited about learning to read and we find him in his bedroom "reading" through the books on his own now. Not only that, but it gives us something to look forward to each night as we get to read together before bed time. And, when he sees books he's taken home before, he still gets excited because he remembers the story. We wanted to thank you very much."

Parent,
Kern County, CA



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