



Reach Out and Read American Indian/Alaska Native

The Reach Out and Read (ROR) Model

- In the exam room, doctors and nurses trained in the developmental strategies of early literacy encourage parents to read aloud to their young children and offer age-appropriate tips.
- The pediatric primary care provider gives every child between the ages of 6 months and 5 years a new, developmentally- and culturally-appropriate book to take home at each well-child care visit.
- In the waiting room, displays, information, and gently used books create a literacy-rich environment. Where possible, volunteer readers entertain the children, modeling for the parents the fun of reading aloud.

The need to promote and encourage early literacy among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children is clear

- 80% of AI/AN children on reservations live in families with income below 200% of the federal poverty line
- AI/AN children, as a group, have the poorest test scores, the lowest high school graduation rates, and the worst college entry and graduation rates of any minority group in the United States.
- Early language development is recognized as essential for later school achievement of young children. More than a decade of peer-reviewed, published research shows ROR to be a highly effective strategy for school success.
- Indian Health Service/Tribal/Urban (I/T/U) clinics care for 75% of AI/AN children, and provide an established infrastructure to reach this population. Currently only 46 of the approximately 300 I/T/U clinics have implemented ROR in their health care setting.
- There are limited AI/AN-themed children's books available, and those that exist are quite expensive.

ROR impact within the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Clinics

- 70 IHS and tribal clinic sites currently participate in ROR programs.
- More than 40,000 AI/AN children benefit from ROR annually.
- More than 53,000 new, developmentally-appropriate books are distributed to AI/AN children annually.

The ROR American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Coalition: A Partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics

A Coalition specifically focused on AI/AN children has been developed in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics. This coalition will serve four primary functions:

- Providing site-based training, technical assistance, and quality improvement visits to I/T/U Sites
- Securing funding for each Site's annual book budget. Most I/T/U clinics are under funded and lack the discretionary funds to purchase ROR books.
- Expanding the ROR program to additional I/T/U programs across the country
- Procuring books with Native American themes and making books in Native American languages available

1 2000 Census, www.kidscount.org

2 National Center for Education Statistics, US Department of Education. National Indian Education Study: Part I: The Performance of American Indian and Alaska Native Fourth- and Eighth-Grade Students on NAEP 2005 Reading and Mathematics Assessments. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006463> Accessed on 11/1/06.

3 Greene, JP and Winters, MA. Public School Graduation Rates in the United States. Center for Civic Innovation at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cr_31.htm Accessed on 11/1/06.

4 Jackson, AP, Smith, SA, and Hill, CL. (2003). Academic persistence among Native American college students. *Journal of College Student Development*. http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3752/is_200307/ai_n9300410 Accessed on 11/1/06.

For more information, contact the **Reach Out and Read National Center** by phone at **617-455-0600**, email at info@reachoutandread.org, or by writing to us at **56 Roland Street, Suite 100D, Boston, MA 02129-1243**.

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