



## MODELS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY PROGRAMS

Want to start a children's literacy project? **DON'T START FROM SCRATCH. AVOID THE TIME AND TROUBLE OF MAKING MISTAKES.** Use the **NUMEROUS** programs in existence that address literacy preparation or reading readiness for children birth through seven years of age. Many of these rely heavily upon a volunteer corps and encourage the involvement of the community (such as service or church organizations).

Most can be adapted for use in a childcare center or home care provider or a preschool affiliated with a public school. Some involve home visits to infants or toddlers and parents.

Before you begin, contact your local public library. The library can:

1. Tell you of its efforts, which may include story hours, home visits, parent training and other items.
2. Help you search the Internet to look at some of the programs listed below.
3. Assist you in making contacts with other people who have similar interests.

**If you don't have Internet access or are not sure how to get to the sites you want, ASK A LIBRARIAN, THE BESTSEARCH ENGINE @your library™**

Deciding about the type of program you want to implement or get involved with rests upon:

1. Numbers of volunteers, the way they're organized.
2. Amount of time and other resources a group is willing to devote.
3. Other community efforts that may complement or compete.

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• "Books for Babies," sponsored by national Friends of Libraries, USA.  
< [www.folusa.org/outreach/books-for-babies.php](http://www.folusa.org/outreach/books-for-babies.php) >  
Advantage is there's a kit ready-made available for \$5, plus some training.

• "Born to Read" program, American Library Association, brochures and materials, tips.  
< <http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/borntoread/bornread.htm> >

• "Colorado Bright Beginnings." Has regional representatives and structured existing program; will train volunteers. This involves home visits to parents and infants initially.  
<<http://www.brightbeginningsco.org/>>

"Every Child Ready to Read @your library," early childhood literacy initiative, complete curriculum, videos, materials. Either download or purchase. From the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children. Many Colorado libraries are involved in this area. <[www.ala.org/ala/pla/plaissues/earlylit/earlyliteracy.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plaissues/earlylit/earlyliteracy.htm)>

- "First Book" gives free books to at-risk children. <[www.firstbook.org/](http://www.firstbook.org/)> Colorado has several local boards.
- "Imagination Library" <[www.imaginationlibrary.com/](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com/)> With the star power of Dolly Parton as a sponsor, a structured approach in which a sponsor agrees to provide books regularly to children in a particular geographic area or group.
- "Parents Action for Children," formerly "I Am Your Child" national campaign. Has a number of video and print items to purchase and distribute. <[www.iamyourchild.org](http://www.iamyourchild.org)>
- "Page Ahead" <[www.pageahead.org/](http://www.pageahead.org/)> Based in the state of Washington, this program includes book give-aways, adoption of sites, and parent training.
- "Parent-Child Home Program" <[www.parent-child.org/](http://www.parent-child.org/)> Based in New York, this home visitation and parent training organization is similar to Colorado Bright Beginnings.
- "Raising a Reader" <[www.raisingareader.org/](http://www.raisingareader.org/)> Rotates book bags into homes through libraries and agencies, trains educators and parents to encourage daily reading.
- "Reach Out and Read," a national program based upon pediatricians' involvement. Colorado has a number of existing local efforts. <[www.reachoutandreadco.org](http://www.reachoutandreadco.org)>
- "Reading Is FUNdamental"--a variety of program ideas and options, ranging from helping classes buy books for kids to more extensive efforts like parent training. <[www.rif.org/about/programs/default.aspx](http://www.rif.org/about/programs/default.aspx)>
- Service organizations, like Optimists and Rotary, often have very local, personal, interactive projects in school classrooms, childcare centers, and other locations. Check with nearby service groups or your library for contacts.

**REMEMBER, libraries have FREE books and activities year-round.**  
**Check our website for more resources—** information on early literacy, websites, Spanish websites for children's literacy, story hours on telephone, pamphlets, others.  
**<[www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Childrens\\_Literacy\\_Resources.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Childrens_Literacy_Resources.htm)>**  
Provided as a public service by the Colorado State Library  
Colorado Department of Education,  
For information, contact 303-866-6900.