

Our Guiding Principles



Since the founding of the Family Reading Partnership in 1997 we have gained knowledge and developed an understanding about our work that has given shape to the following principles. These principles guide us each day in carrying out our mission.

Reach Families Early – The earlier a family integrates books and reading into everyday life at home, the greater the impact books will have on their children. Ideally families understand the benefits of reading to baby beginning at birth.

Reach Families at Home – We want all children to grow in literacy-rich environments, where books are accessible and enjoyed. When adults and children discover the joy of books together in the home, a love of reading becomes a shared value.

Encourage Daily Routines and Family Traditions Around Books – In a culture of literacy books are so interwoven into the fabric of family life that they become an expected and treasured part of everyday life.

Provide Books to Own – Books gain value when children have their very own at home. Children can easily return to them again and again, each time finding new meaning, mastering new skills and growing in their affection for books.

Focus on Book Quality Before Quantity – While we would like every home to have many books, we believe quality should come first. It is our commitment to place into homes the best possible books in terms of language, story, illustrations, book construction, and age appropriateness.

Promote the Use of Libraries – The books we give families can serve as appetizers to the rich bounty of books found at the library.

Emphasize the Foundation for Reading – Providing frequent and pleasurable experiences with the written word enriches the pathway to reading. We believe laying this positive foundation is more important than focus on teaching a child to read at a young age.

Increase the Value of Books – Books will become even more special if they are associated with special people, special times and special memories.

Reach Families Through Existing Networks – Rather than create new networks to reach families, we build on relationships that families already have in the community, so that families receive encouragement to read together and books as gifts from professionals they already respect.

Strengthen Relationships with Books – Books and reading aloud can strengthen relationships between family members and children, children and teachers, and families with doctors, human service agencies, and schools.

Give Books to All Children in the Community – All children benefit from sharing the common experience of a book. To be successful in creating a culture of literacy, we need everyone, regardless of socio-economic status, to feel part of the effort and pass along the message.

Give Extra Books and Support to Low-income and Low-literacy Families – While many of our programs give books to all families in our area, we are especially committed to our core programs that strategically reach those in greatest need.

Involve the Entire Community – We must reach families through the ways in which they connect with the community. The message must come from everywhere and surround them.

Create Win-Win Opportunities and Appreciate All Who Participate and Contribute – Everyone in the community has a stake in this effort and benefits from it. Success is the result of collective efforts of individuals, families, businesses, organizations, schools and libraries result in shared success. Positive outcomes should be celebrated together.

Share What We Have Learned With Others – By sharing ideas and information with each other, we all become stronger in our abilities to make a difference in our own communities. Together we are better!



**Family Reading
Partnership**
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