

LEYENDO JUNTOS

SUPPORTING EARLY LITERACY IN SPANISH FOR LATINO FAMILIES



Why Support Early Reading in Spanish?

When parents engage with their children in the language they speak best, they provide the foundation by which early language and literacy develops. Reading aloud in any language stimulates cognitive growth and the more experience a child has with their family's native language, the easier it will be for them to learn English when they arrive at school.

But Spanish-speaking families encounter many barriers to reading with their children including a lack of bilingual books, lack of opportunity and encouragement, and a lack of comfort with reading. For thirty years, Reach Out and Read has been addressing many of these obstacles.

With unparalleled access to families with young children, Reach Out and Read medical providers give bilingual books to Spanish-speaking families at more than 10 well-child visits from infancy until they start school. More importantly, they encourage families to read aloud and engage with their infants, toddlers and preschoolers every day.

- *Reach Out and Read serves more than 790,000 Spanish-speaking families annually.*

In states such as New Jersey, Florida, Texas, California, and

- *Connecticut, More than 25% of the families we serve each year are Spanish-speaking. Nationwide, more than 17% of the 4.7 million families we serve each year speak Spanish.*

The more a child engages with a parent in any language,

- *the more they will learn. Time spent speaking and reading in Spanish will also help a child learn to speak and read in English.*



Supporting Parent-Child Relationships for Every Child - Everywhere

17.5 Million

Of the 74 million children in the United States today, **17.5 million are Hispanic**. This is the largest and fastest-growing racial/ethnic minority group of children. Today, one U.S. child in four is Hispanic; by 2050, it will be more than one in three.

Cultural Specificity

The Spanish-speaking families we serve reflects our diversity: families of Mexican heritage, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Dominican, Cuban, and countries across Central America and South America. Because we collaborate with local pediatric systems, our providers often reflect the diversity of the communities where we work.

Our Results

Reach Out and Read families are two and a half times more likely to read together, which also promotes curiosity, engagement, and self-regulation. It promotes resilience and mitigates toxic stress. The language development of Reach out and Read children is improved by 3-6 months by the time they arrive at kindergarten.