

How To Start A Program



Cost: It is easy to get started! Families In Schools trains staff at preschools, elementary schools, and community based organizations to implement **Read With Me**. The one-time cost to establish **Read with Me** program is only \$110 per student.

Training: To begin **Read With Me** at your site, call Families In Schools and schedule a training date. At this 2-hour workshop, staff will receive professional development and materials to successfully engage parents in their child's early literacy development.

- Tools:** Every new **Read With Me** Partner School/ Organization receives:
- **A set of Read With Me backpacks with quality children's books in both English and Spanish**
 - **Step-by-step program manuals**
 - **3 family literacy lesson plans**
 - **Program support tools including outreach materials, flyers, parent handouts, etc.**
 - **A teacher toolbox full of parent incentives including:**
 - **Children's books**
 - **Colorful bookmarks promoting reading**
 - **Read With Me pencils**

After the training, schools/agencies will be prepared to manage the weekly distribution of **Read With Me** backpacks with families, in addition to leading family literacy workshops for parents.

Start Read With Me in your community today!

For more information, please contact:

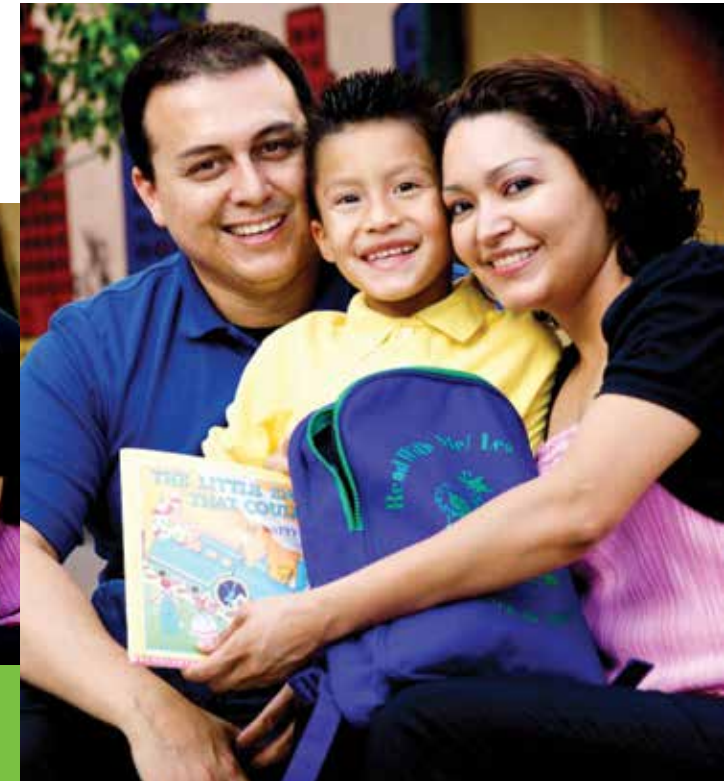


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"Read With Me has been really successful at our pre-school center. We can see that the families are spending more quality time together through the homework being submitted. Our children are very excited; they are always anxious to see what books they will be receiving each week!"
– Site Supervisor, Child Development Center



A Parent Engagement Program of Families In Schools



Read with Me

Parents are key to a child's early literacy development. Through **Read With Me**, parents have the tools and confidence to support their child's literacy at home. **Read With Me** is a family engagement program for parents of infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarten – first grade students. This innovative program provides a weekly supply of quality children's books to families, complemented by family literacy workshops. Since 2001, **Read With Me** has reached over 120,000 families at 290 locations.

Bringing Books into the Home

Every week, families meet at their child's school to check-out a colorful **Read With Me** backpack filled with 6 children's books. To begin the program, parents first attend an orientation where they learn story sharing techniques and sign a pledge to read aloud to their child for 20 minutes every day. Families then journey home and open their purple packs to discover story sharing tips along with books in English and Spanish.

At the end of the week, they exchange the backpack for a new bag of books. Through **Read With Me**, families experience an average of 120 different children's books annually.



Strengthening Family Literacy

Educational research overwhelmingly supports the premise that "the single most important activity for building understanding and skills essential for reading success appears to be reading aloud to children" (Bus, Van Lijendoorn & Pellegrini, 1995). Through **Read With Me**, parents increase foundational literacy skills for children by reading aloud. Parents reading aloud helps children to:

- Establish a love for books
- Increase vocabulary
- Understand concepts about print
- Increase phonological awareness
- Improve listening and speaking skills
- Improve problem solving skills
- Explore different worlds
- Use imagination



Awards and Recognition

Recognized as a promising practice in What Works: Promising Practices in Improving the School Readiness of English Language Learners
– Ready by Five Partnership

Partnership Organization Award from the "National Network of Partnership Schools"
– John Hopkins University

Evaluation Results

Read With Me is an evidence based program that has strong results. External evaluation shows that Read With Me:

- **Increases reading in the home** – **Read With Me** families increased the amount of time they read together by an average of 29 minutes a day.
- **Increases the number of times a week a family reads together** – 75% of families share stories 4 or more times a week.
- **Increases parent-teacher communication** – **Read with Me** preschool parents were 14% more likely to contact teachers about their child's early reading ability.



Families In Schools

Read With Me is a parent engagement program of Families In Schools, a non-profit organization dedicated to involving parents and communities in their children's education to achieve life-long success. Families In Schools provides schools and organizations with tools and training to effectively engage parents in their child's education. To learn more about FIS, visit www.familiesinschools.org or call (213) 201-3900.