

How To Start A Program



It is easy to get started! Families In Schools partners with preschools, elementary schools, and community based organizations. Please contact Families In Schools regarding the one-time training cost for school and agency staff to become **Reading Roads** facilitators.

Training:

To begin **Reading Roads** in your community, contact Families In Schools about facilitator training institutes or schedule your own training. At this 2-day workshop, staff will receive materials and training to successfully engage parents in their child's literacy development.

Facilitator Kit:

Every new **Reading Roads** Facilitator receives:

- **Curriculum with easy-to-use lesson plans for school staff and parent educators**
- **Handouts with take-home activities for parents in both English and Spanish**
- **Program support tools including sign-in sheets, flyers, etc.***
- **A guide of workshop facilitation best practices**
- **A set of bookmarks with read aloud tips**

* Upon request, a start-up library of children's books that complements each lesson can be added to the kit for an additional cost.

After completing the training, schools/agencies will be prepared to provide **Reading Roads** as a 5-week family literacy program on an on-going basis with parents in their community.

Start Reading Roads in your community today!

For more information, please contact:



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"Reading Roads is an amazing program. It was a moving experience to see how the activities empowered the parents. The knowledge gained by the families was invaluable! Reading Roads will close the achievement gap, one family at a time!"

– Andrea Joseph, CA Children's Academy



**Families Reading Together
for Student Success**



A Parent Engagement Program of Families In Schools



Reading Roads is a multicultural family literacy program for parents.

Parents are their child's first teacher and they have an important role in their child's literacy development. Research tells us that reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for building reading success. Through read-aloud activities, Reading Roads improves parents skills and confidence in supporting literacy with their child.



Curriculum Approach:

Based on popular education, Reading Roads consists of lessons connected to themes families hold close to their hearts. The themes include family, culture, community, opportunity, and celebration. At every lesson's core is a children's book which reflects the session's theme. Also, each class focuses on a specific literacy skill. Reading Roads has age appropriate curriculums for parents of preschool children (ages 3-4) and elementary school children (ages 5-9).

Parent Workshop Format:

Every week, parents gather at their local school or agency for a family literacy workshop. Trained Reading Roads facilitators begin each session by leading parents in an icebreaker, an essential element of building a support network for mothers and fathers. Each session introduces parents to a different children's book, literacy skill, and activity to support their child's literacy development at home. Weekly, parents check out a children's book to read with their child and an activity sheet to complement the story.

Books and Literacy Skills

To build a culture of learning, Reading Roads incorporates a children's book and a literacy skill in each parent engagement session:

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

Preschool Books

- **Hairs** by Sandra Cisneros
- **Margaret and Margarita** by Lynn Reiser
- **Moon Rope** by Lois Ehlert
- **Horton Hears a Who!** by Dr. Seuss
- **Amazing Grace** by Mary Hoffman
- **The Colors of Us** by Karen Katz
- **These Hands** by Margaret Mason
- **Wangari's Trees of Peace** by Jeanette Winter



Preschool Literacy Skills

- Describing People, Places, and Things
- Story Retelling
- Making Predictions
- Phonemic Awareness: Repetition and Rhyming
- Making Meaning Out Of Text
- Phonemic Awareness: Syllables
- Vocabulary Development
- Print Awareness
- Library Usage



ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

Elementary School Books

- **Love You Forever** by Robert Munsch
- **In My Family** by Carmen Lomas Garza
- **Xochitl and the Flowers** by Jorge Argueta
- **Estela's Swap** by Alexis O'Neill

Elementary School Literacy Skills

- Descriptive Language
- Story Retelling
- Making Predictions
- Making Inference and Drawing Conclusions
- Library Usage

Results



Evaluation results show that Reading Roads:

Improves literacy skills:

- 92% of parents report that their child's reading skills have improved
- 94% of parents report that their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills improved

Increases homework involvement:

- The number of parents who help their child with their homework more than 30 minutes a day increased by 18%.

FAMILIES IN SCHOOLS

Reading Roads 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.