

# The Reading Bug at NorthBay Healthcare

Everyone has the “reading bug” at NorthBay Healthcare. Our three newest Reach Out and Read clinics are steadily increasing participation. The youngest patients at clinics in Green Valley, Fairfield, and Vacaville receive a gift book during regular check-ups and parents are encouraged to read daily to their young children. Medical assistants make sure the clinic shelves have books. Brothers and sisters, accompanying younger siblings, want books too.

According to Dr. Stephen Newman, family practice doctor, at NorthBay Healthcare, Vacaville, having books that meet the developmental interests of young children makes a difference. During a checkup, parents of a toddler were concerned that their child had absolutely no interest in books. They tried reading everything to him, and he simply wasn’t interested. Dr. Newman placed a book designed for toddlers within reach of their son. The toddler lunged for the book, scooping it into his arms. Neither Dr. Newman, nor the parents, expected this response, but it became clear that offering age appropriate books to children heightens their interest in books.

The Solano County Library and the Library Foundation provide books and practical support. All three sites have volunteers prepared to read aloud in the clinic waiting rooms. Combining all the elements is a gradual process; however, the staff has adopted this program wholeheartedly.



Dr. Stephen Newman & Michelle Curry, M.A., NorthBay Healthcare, Vacaville

