

More than 100,000 Books

The Solano County Library Reach Out and Read program hurtled to new heights in May 2009 with the distribution of more than 100,000 books at well child visits. For nine years, doctors and nurse practitioners have promoted early literacy, advising parents on the merits of reading aloud to young children.

Heather Nelson of Vacaville, mother of Lilliah (10 months) and Gwendelyne (2 years), describes reading to her daughters. “I read to them and watch as they understand the story. I feel like I can see their brains growing right in front of me. Changing your voice and being animated is so much fun. I point to pictures and Lilli points to the same picture to see me do it again.”



Heather Nelson, her daughters, and Dr. Judy Yang

Joanne Ball, volunteer reader for the library at La Clinica, Vallejo, says, “I feel like being able to share reading is such a good thing, and it’s fun even when they’re (children) too little to understand all the words.”

Reading aloud and library use are encouraged with the Reach Out and Read program. Parents who want help with reading and writing are given the phone number for the Adult Literacy Program. Teamwork has resulted in thousands more parents reading to their children daily, right here in Solano County.

ROR Scoreboard: 13-0

Mission accomplished! It was the library foundation’s goal to serve every pediatric clinic in our Solano County Library service area with the Reach Out and Read program. As of April, we have met that goal.

North Bay Pediatrics, affiliated with the Hill Physicians Medical Group, became the 12th and 13th clinics to join the ROR program coordinated by the library and funded by the Solano County Library Foundation. Additional clinics, such as Kaiser Permanente in Vallejo and David Grant Medical Center at Travis AFB, provide the ROR program independently.

Here are the library/library foundation clinics:

Health and Social Services (Vallejo, Fairfield)
 La Clinica, Vallejo
 Sutter Regional Medical Foundation (Fairfield, Vacaville)
 Community Medical Center Vacaville, Inc.
 Kaiser Permanente (Fairfield, Vacaville)
 NorthBay Healthcare (Green Valley, Fairfield, Vacaville)
 North Bay Pediatrics (Vallejo, Fairfield)

The next time you have a medical appointment at one of these clinics, please thank them for working with the library to advance early literacy development in young children!