

# Reach Out and Read Moves into 10<sup>th</sup> Year

In July 1999, Health and Social Services pediatric clinics in Fairfield and Vallejo, were acknowledged as our first Reach Out and Read (ROR) sites. Promoting the joy of reading aloud daily to young children has been embraced in Solano County. More than 50,000 families have been served at 13 clinics.

Doctors (pediatricians and family practice physicians) and nurse practitioners advise parents to read aloud to children from 6 months to 5 years of age. Parents also learn that if they want to improve their reading, writing, and English speaking skills, literacy services are available at the library with free tutoring and materials.

Volunteers from around the county sign up to read aloud at medical clinics in Fairfield, Vacaville, and Vallejo. Their level of commitment far surpasses program requirements such as recommending books and serving as ambassadors. They share information on storytime sessions at local libraries.

When the program began, it was rare to see parents reading to their children while waiting for medical appointments. Today, it is the norm. Solano County Library's Reach Out and Read and partners celebrate ten years, and we're still going strong!

