



2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission is to foster early literacy bonds between children and their parents to ensure that all young children from Aspen to Parachute develop a love of books and the skills to become successful readers.

We Reached 1,428 Children & their Families with Our Programs in 2018-19

PROGRAM NUMBERS

Red Book Bag Program

996 children and their families received a book bag every week during the school year with four books for read-aloud and book sharing activities at home.

- 52 preschools classrooms
- 20 kindergarten classrooms

Bolsitas Rojas Program

88 children and their caregivers participated in weekly sessions in four low-income neighborhoods where children were not enrolled in preschool or formal childcare. Each week, children participated in an activity, parents received guidance and families received red book bags to take home.

- 51 Rifle families
- 20 New Castle families
- 9 Glenwood Springs families at CMC Spring Valley
- 8 Basalt families

Motheread Program

19 low-income moms in Rifle and New Castle (with 38 children) received 20 hours of intensive early childhood literacy and social/emotional training over 8 weeks.

1-2-3 Let's Read Program

Once per month during the school year, **325 children and their families** received a new storybook – a gift to keep. With each book, RAR provided parents and teachers with a worksheet of learning activities related to the specific book and highlighted for parents their role in the child's language and reading development at home.

- Center for Family Learning in Parachute - 296 families: 102 in preschool, 82 in kindergarten, and 63 in first-grade
- Yampah Teen Parent Program – 15 teen moms & their babies
- GSES preschool – 14 families

BLUE BAG LIBRARY DAYS

56 library field trips introduced 675 preschoolers and their families to their local libraries and children received their own Raising A Reader library book bag to keep and a library card to check out their first library books.

- Pitkin Library – 79 children visited
- Basalt – 40 children
- Glenwood Springs – 138 children
- New Castle – 75 children
- Silt – 43 children
- Rifle – 179 children
- Parachute – 121 children

PARENT SESSIONS

More than 800 parents from Aspen to Parachute attended one of 50 group parent sessions where Raising A Reader staff presented in English and Spanish on the relationship between reading aloud to young children and the positive benefits to their brain development.

PROGRAM EVALUATION RESULTS

Red Book Bag & Bolsitas Rojas Programs

(based on parent pre/post surveys taken in September 2018 and May 2019):

- 31% increase in the number of minutes that parents spend reading to children each day; 44% increase for families earning less than \$65,000 annually; 47% increase in families whose primary language is Spanish
- 20% increase in number of days that parents read to children per week; 30% increase in families whose primary language is Spanish
- 29% increase in the number of times children “read” the books to their parents or told stories about the pictures
- 13% increase in parent/child engagement in shared activities that involve lots of talking; 23% increase in families whose primary language is Spanish
- 13% increase in families who check out books from the library; 23% increase in families whose primary language is Spanish

123 Let’s Read Program (based on parent post survey taken in May)

- 51% parents report that their child was excited about the new books and that they read together more than usual
- 52% parents report that they read each book with their child multiple times

Motheread Program (based on parent pre/post surveys taken on first and last day of class. Percentage reflects change from pre to post, movement from infrequent to frequent)

- 93% increase in moms reading to their son/daughter every day
- 80% increase in moms helping their child understand how something that happened in the story is similar to something their child has experienced.
- 100% increase in moms asking their children questions that cannot be answered with a simple yes or no
- 73% increase in moms explaining new words that their child does not hear or say often

GEOGRAPHY

- Pitkin County – 171 families (12%)
- Eagle County – 141 families (10%)
- Garfield County – 1,097 families (77%):
 - Carbondale – 77 (5%)
 - Glenwood Springs – 226 (16%)
 - New Castle – 109 (8%)
 - Silt – 40 (3%)
 - Rifle – 323 (23%)
 - Parachute – 322 (23%)
- Mesa County – 19 families (1%)

DEMOGRAPHICS

Parent Education

- 1st – 6th grade education - 6%
- 7th – 9th grade education - 12%
- 9th – 12th grade education - 31%
- 2 years post-high school - 19%
- 4-year college degree - 16 %
- Advanced degree - 16 %

Language Spoken at Home

- 53% families speak English
- 41% families speak Spanish
- 6% families speak multiple languages

Annual Household Income

- Less than \$45K – 44%
- \$45K - \$65K – 25%
- More than \$65K – 31%

“The books we get through Raising A Reader were easy to relate to our daily life. Reading and talking about the stories together is a good way to help my daughter understand how to cope with her feelings.”

-Raising A Reader mom in Parachute, CO