



2019-20 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 1,296 Children & their Families in 2019-20

PROGRAM NUMBERS

Red Book Bag Program

975 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.

- 61 preschools classrooms
- 26 kindergarten classrooms

Bolsitas Rojas Program

105 children and their caregivers participated in weekly sessions in 7 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.

- 37 Rifle families
- 16 New Castle families
- 12 Glenwood Springs families at Library
- 10 Silt families
- 10 Parachute families
- 11 Basalt families
- 9 Glenwood Springs families at CMC Spring Valley

Motheread Program

10 low-income moms in Glenwood Springs (with 18 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, **206 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 – 120 preschool families
- Yampah Teen Parent Program – 23 teen moms & their babies
- GSES preschool – 63 preschool families

No Blue Bag Library Days in 2020 due to Covid

In 2018-19: 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

524 parents from August to mid-March from Aspen to Parachute attended one of 27 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

2019-20 Bolsitas Rojas Program

(based on parent pre/post surveys taken in September 2019 and June 2020)

- 60% increase in number of minutes each day parents read with children
- 62% increase in number of days each week parents read with children

***2018-19 Red Book Bag**

(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

(RAR was not successful collecting 2020 post-surveys from parents due to March school closures for in-person learning.)

***2018-19 123 Let's Read Program** (based on parent post survey taken in May 2019)

- 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

(RAR was not successful collecting 2020 post-surveys from parents due to March school closures for in-person learning.)

Data below was collected from 2019 Sept. parent pre-survey (72% return rate)

GEOGRAPHY

- Pitkin County – 174 families (13%)
- Eagle County – 168 families (13%)
- Garfield County – 954 families (74%):
 - Carbondale – 75 (6%)
 - Glenwood Springs – 347 (27%)
 - New Castle – 106 (8%)
 - Silt – 43 (3%)
 - Rifle – 253 (20%)
 - Parachute – 130 (10%)

DEMOGRAPHICS

First # represents RBB & 123 Let's Read families; Second # (BR) Bolsitas Rojas

Parent Education

1st – 6th grade education - 4% (BR 5%)
7th – 9th grade education - 6% (BR 14%)
9th – 12th grade education - 30% (BR 47%)
4-year college degree - 21 % (BR 16%)
Advanced degree - 11 % (BR 2%)
Did not answer (DNA) – 28% (BR 16%)

Language Spoken at Home

- 51% families speak English (BR 18%)
- 36% families speak Spanish (BR 61%)
- 11% families speak multiple languages (BR 20%)
- DNA – 2% (BR 1%)

Annual Household Income

- Less than \$45K – 35% (BR 33%)
- \$45K - \$65K – 19% (BR 25%)
- More than \$65K – 34% (11%)
- DNA 12% (BR 31%)

*Due to Covid school closures in March 2020, RAR was unable to collect post-survey information from families participating in the red book bag and 123 Let's Read programs. Evaluation results for these programs are from 2018-19.