



Evaluation 2018

“He gets so excited to see what books are in the red bag. Although it can take a while to get through some stories, it is okay because we talk about the book the entire time. He will ask questions and one of my favorites is: Mommy imagine if...”

Parent in Parachute, Colorado, Spring 2018

Pre and Post Parent Engagement Assessment 2018 (Parents surveyed in September and May)

- **Read aloud sessions:** The average length of read-aloud sessions and time together with books increased by 30 percent for low-income families.
- **Dialogic reading – Parents engage the child through questions and discussions about the book:** The number of parents who took time to ask questions and encourage discussion increased by 29 percent during the school year. Conversations about alphabet, letters and numbers increased by 21 percent.
- **Child engagement in read-aloud sessions:** The evaluation revealed a 37 percent increase in the number of times the child wanted to take the lead at home to read (from memory) a favorite story or make up their own story based on a book’s pictures. In low-income families the increase was 44 percent.
- **Love of stories and read-aloud time with parents:** The number of children who requested a story from a parent more than once daily increased by 24 percent.
- **Parent-child activities that improve language skills:** Other verbal activities such as cooking together, telling stories in the car, and singing together increased by 67 percent for low-income families.
- **Library use:** By spring, the number of parents who said they were likely to visit the library in the next two weeks increased by 28%. The number of parents who attended a library story time increase by 50 percent during the year.
- **Kindergarten Engagement:** Low-income parents of kindergarten students reported a 78 percent increase in the number of children who wanted to identify letters and words for mom and dad. Parents also reported a 177 percent increase in the number of children who wanted to “show off” their newly acquired ability to read simple sentences.

School District Kindergarten Assessment: Following are two years of combined results of kindergarten readiness assessments by Garfield Re2 School District: The number of Raising A Reader children testing at or above national standard for reading readiness exceeded the number of non-RAR children by seven percentage points. Among children testing well-below the national standard, fewer RAR kids, by nearly 8 percentage points, appeared in this category.

The Numbers

- **1,729 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.
- **1,007 parents attended** at least one of 50 group parent sessions delivered by Raising A Reader staff concurrently in English and Spanish.
- **Eighty (80) children and their moms** participated in weekly sessions in six low-income neighborhoods where children were not enrolled in preschool or any other formal child care. Each week, children participated in an activity, parents received guidance and families received books to take home.

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- **Fifty (50) Blue Bag Library Day field trips** introduced 700 children and their families to their local libraries. Children received their own Raising A Reader library book bag to keep, their first library card and the opportunity to check out their first library books.

Operational Efficiency

- Administrative costs are just 14 percent of total operational costs
- Annual per child program cost: \$110
- Total staff includes 2 full-time and 3 part-time members for a full-time equivalency of 3.00

For more information:

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