

November 2020

SPOTLIGHT ON LITERACY



A Read to Me Project Newsletter for Educators

Issue 1

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The Read to Me Project is the only way schools have to penetrate into homes to provide early literacy experiences for children beginning at birth. The Read to Me Project is a simple and impactful program that benefits communities, schools and the lives of students, little ones, and parents. - Sonia Aramburo, Principal, Oak Ave. Elementary School, Greenfield, CA

Literacy-building Ideas for Students

Read to Me Project has engaging tools that you can use in your classroom to explain, in very simple terms, how the brain takes in information and turns it into knowledge. In this 5-minute introduction video, students will learn about sparking brain power, getting them excited to read for themselves and to read to their little ones at home.

[How to Spark Brain Power](#)

Did You Know?

Students who participated in the Read to Me Project scored 68% greater in standard reading assessments compared to students who were not in the program.

Students who read regularly to little ones at home improve in their own reading skills! Go to [Read to Me Project Impacts](#) for more information about results of a third-party evaluation of Read to Me Project impacts.

Program Timeline

Sept-Oct	Nov-Dec	Jan-Feb	March	April	May
✓ Motivational presentation to students	✓ Coaching sessions 1a and 1b	Coaching session #2	Coaching Session #3	Students & teacher surveys	End-of-year Awards!
✓ Student orientation	✓ 2 nd check-in with students	3 rd check-in with students			
✓ 1 st check-in with students					

The Hidden Powers of Reading

We all enjoy reading for many reasons and there are powerful, unexpected ways reading changes a family dynamic. It can deepen sibling relationships. Students reading to the little ones are not only improving their own reading skills and providing early literacy experiences to their younger family members, but the times spent together with a book can become wonderful memories that last a lifetime. The habit of reading together as children becomes the new norm that will interrupt any generational cycle of low literacy in the family. Plus, we all know that positive relationships at home can positively impact the student's performance in school too.

Read to Me Project program coordinators often share how they hear pride in the students' voices who describe how they feel about reading to the younger children at home. Self-esteem, confidence and a *healthy* pride about helping the little ones are bonus benefits for Read to Me Project participants.

Talk to your students about how reading at home to their little ones is going. Here are some great prompts:

- How does your little one act when you read to them?
- Draw or write something your little one said or did when you read the book.
- Tell me about your little one's favorite Read to Me book.

These prompts are great for conversation or a mini-homework assignment!

Staff Recommendation

"THE LITERACY SHED is a great tool for all elements of ELA. From retelling, to predicting and confirming, summarizing, plot, and dialogue. The possibilities are endless. I particularly loved using it in my classroom during holidays (all videos are organized based on theme) when the students and myself could use a little fun. I also found that it was particularly powerful when used in ELD. The absence of words really creates unique

Contact Information

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and interesting opportunities for ELL students to talk about the films. Your students will love it!"

- Natalie, Read to Me Project
Program Coordinator

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[Read to Me Project](#)

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