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## Literacy-building Ideas for Students

### Bilingualism & Literacy

The more languages we know, the more people we can talk to! A simple, yet powerful construct. There are, of course, many other suggested benefits to bilingualism – development of increased vocabulary, multi-tasking skills, and creativity being just a few. Additionally, research shows that the ability to decode words and assign meaning to those words, is heightened in children who grow up hearing more than one language.

In Monterey County, 55.2% of those who are 5 years old and up, speak a language other than English at home. When reading to their little ones, the Read to Me Project program coordinator encourages readers to point to and talk about pictures in their home language as well as in English. To support bilingual families, who are predominantly Spanish speaking, nearly 30% of our books are Spanish/English titles.

We explain to our readers that by helping children learn to use words and sentences in their first language, the little ones can be more successful when they start speaking and reading English in kindergarten. The collateral benefit is that all the students learn the importance of bilingualism in nurturing a more inclusive world view.

“The Read to Me Project worked out extremely well for my 4th graders. It encouraged reading which is a challenge today! Most kids want to spend their free time on video games or watching You Tube videos, so a program which gets kids excited about reading is great.”

– Kathryn Yates, 4<sup>th</sup>  
grade teacher

## Did You Know?

### We Call Them Changemakers

#### Vision and Quest Readers

Read to Me Project's whole-class model allows all the students, whether or not they have little ones at home, to benefit from the read-aloud coaching. The students who are reading to little ones at home are our Vision Readers. They are an integral partner to our program helping to fulfill the RtMP vision that is every child enters kindergarten on track and ready to succeed.

Just as essential are our Quest Readers. These students are on a quest to find a target audience to read and speak to! The confidence and public speaking skills they develop will benefit them throughout their academic career and beyond.

#### Book Bin Managers

To help us facilitate the in-class book check-out and to manage the student reading log, teachers appoint students in their class to serve as Read to Me Project Book Bin Managers. This experience offers the development of leadership and organizational skills for those chosen for the responsibility.


### The Read to Me Project Aligns with Common Core Standards!


By promoting daily reading we reinforce:

- CCSS.ELA.L.4.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
- CCSS.ELA.L.4.3.A Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.
- CCSS.ELA.L.4.3.B Choose punctuation for effect.
- CCSS.ELA.L.4.3.C Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is appropriate.

See more information about program alignments with [Common Core Standards](#)  
(password: rtmp2021)

## Program Timeline



Aug/Sept	October	Nov/Dec	Jan/Feb	April	May
Teachers' program orientation	1 <sup>st</sup> coaching session	2 <sup>nd</sup> coaching session	3 <sup>rd</sup> coaching session	4 <sup>th</sup> coaching session	Book bin collected
Full-class orientation	Small group check-in	Small group check-in	Small group check-in	Small group check-in	Teacher survey
1 <sup>st</sup> Book Bin delivery		Optional Holiday book wrap event	Book bin swap ¿Dónde va? ¿Cuántos hay?	Student surveys	End-of-yr. Awards
Bin manager training					

## Educator Approved

### Students as Mentors

While our priority is to ensure that all children have strong learning foundations to draw from when they start kindergarten, the student readers benefit as well! The Vision and Quest Readers develop organization, collaboration and time-management skills. Their reading and public speaking skills are supported, and they are learning valuable lessons in responsibility and stewardship. Additionally, the return of our book bin managers offers students an opportunity to hold a leadership position.

At the end of last year, teachers who included the program in their classes shared their thoughts on the benefits of RtMP for their students. Here are a few of their comments:

*... students gain a general sense of responsibility and desire to help their younger siblings...*

*... Read to Me Project teaches responsibility.*

*My book bin managers gain confidence and independence...*

*... RtMP has increased my students' skills as leaders and taking responsibility for their learning, and [they are] passing that along to others.*

*... RtMP is a great way for older students to become role models...*

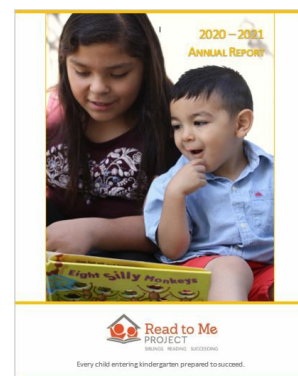
**It is not too late to include Read to Me Project in your classroom.**

**Email [Libby](#) or [Kirstin](#) today!**

### **Read to Me Project 2020 - 2021 Annual Report**

Pg.9: 2020 - 2021 Teacher Survey: Thirty-two teachers completed a twenty-question survey conducted last May. Overall, teachers saw improvements in their students' reading abilities and an increased desire and purpose to read.

The Read to Me Project website has a section just for **For Educators** (password: rtmp2021) to find **informative and fun reading videos for your students!**



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