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Program Timeline

Educator Approved

For Educators

2021/2022 Schools
& Partners

Contact Information

Allison, a 5th grade student at Marina Vista Elementary Arts Academy says...

I believe the Read to Me Project helps students with public speaking skills by allowing them to develop strategies to make their voice interesting and giving them tools to help them grab the audience's attention.

[Our RtMP Coordinator] shared videos of other young children public speaking and modeled public speaking strategies in [her] presentations. In addition, the program allows [students] to practice 'performing' or speaking to a small audience (their younger sibling) so that when they have to speak to a larger group, they are more prepared and confident.

Literacy-building Ideas for Students

Presentation Literacy & the "9 Best Ways..."

Gaining presentation literacy is an important life skill and a common core skill as well. Imagine yourself in front of an audience of three, then 30, then 300. How does each group size alter your comfort level? If you are like three out of every four humans on the planet, your anxiety escalates with each increasing number.

Being able to give a strong presentation using storytelling and read aloud skills has practical value as well. Leadership consultant Karen Eber notes that the world's best leaders and visionaries earn trust not by presenting endless lines of dry data, but by telling great stories. Her research showed that for both the speaker and the listener, every part of the brain lights up during storytelling. A connection is made. Understanding happens. Trust is fostered and knowledge is gained.

Sound familiar? When students read to their little ones using the skills they learn from Read to Me Project's "9 Best Ways to Read to Young Children" and "Storytelling Toolbox," sparks lead to connections! The little ones increase their word base and strengthen their learning foundation. The students develop presentation skills and become more confident sharing their voices and ideas with the world. A unique team is formed as the students and little ones make fun memories and benefit from the special relationship that is nurtured.

Did You Know?

Not all our students have little ones at home to read to, but that doesn't stop them from fully participating in RtMP. We call these students our Quest Readers, as they are on a quest to find an audience to practice their newly learned "9 Best Ways to Read to Young Children" and storytelling skills. Students often choose a parent, grandparent, or other family member to read to. Oftentimes, however, parents are working full time and there are no older siblings or family members available. So, Quest Readers get

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creative and enlist pets or even stuffed animals as an audience.

A 5th grade Quest Reader at Oak Avenue Elementary School shares, "My dog sometimes falls asleep when I'm reading to him, but at least he doesn't run away or try to hide the book!"

Reading and speaking out loud can be intimidating at first and takes practice to gain confidence. Two of the "9 Best Ways..." specifically address these issues. *Know Your Book* encourages students to read their book three times to become familiar with the content, to learn any unknown words, and to determine what character voices and story sounds to use. *Make Your Voice Interesting* coaches students to imagine and then to read out loud using interesting voices for the characters in the story. At first students may be embarrassed to use a squeaky voice for a mouse, a loud, rumbly voice for a bear, or a "buzzz" for a bee. However, with encouragement and practice, RtMP students learn to overcome their shyness and embrace the fun.

Being able to practice on a pet or stuffed animal can be an easy first step to later reading to a sibling or even giving a book report in front of the class. Presentation skills are life skills that benefit everyone. Learning presentation literacy skills aligns with both Core Curriculum Standards and California English Language Development Standards. For Vision Readers (students reading to little ones at home) and Quest Readers alike, finding their voice is a bold first step towards developing the confidence essential to capturing the attention of their audience at home, in school, and beyond.



The Read to Me Project aligns with and supports Common Core Standards. Coaching 3, Make your Voice Interesting and Coaching 4, Student Survey supports: *CCSS.ELA.RL.4.7 Make connections between the text of a story and a visual or oral presentation of the text.* As well as: *CCSS.ELA.SL.4.1, CCSS.ELA.SL.4.2, CCSS.ELA.W.5.1, CCSS.ELA.W.5.6 and CCSS.ELA.W.5.8.*

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

Blake Doherty, Read to Me Project Board Member and 5th grade teacher at Creekside Elementary School, explains how the program curriculum helps his students by aligning with many common core standards, including literacy and presentation literacy skills. He also shares his thoughts on how the RtMP program benefits the little one being read to.

RtMP is designed to promote literacy for pre-k children, but in doing so it also covers upper-grade common core reading standards. For example, when the upper-grade students read to their little ones using RtMP's "9 Best Ways to Read to Young Children" they are practicing Reading Literature Standard 5.7: Analyze how visual elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text. The older child is expected to initiate discussion around the text and illustrations including why the illustrator chose to draw specific things, or the use of color, or asking the younger child how they feel when they look at the illustrations or what they predict will happen next or make connections to other stories they have read. When doing this the older child ultimately ends up modeling and discussing their own reactions to the visual elements of the story.

Even though the text itself is not necessarily at the fifth-grade level, the connections the student makes are a fifth-grade standard and better prepare students to make these same connections when reading fifth-grade level text in the classroom. The connections made when reading, analyzing, and discussing the text and illustrations with their little one is important to the overall comprehension of the standards and better prepare the students for grade-level reading. In addition, both Vision and Quest readers gain presentation skills which support core standards under the Speaking and Listening Domain. There are a lot of standards that RtMP practices for both the vision readers and the quest readers. I could go on and on.

For Educators

The Read to Me Project website has a section just [For Educators](#) (password: [rtmp2021](#)). Find entertaining [videos](#) that reiterate the content of student coaching sessions and model the "9 Best Ways..." with stories including "Interrupting Chicken" by David Ezra Stein.

14 Heroic Schools and 2,015 Special Students

THANK YOU district supervisors, principals, assistants, and teachers! We sincerely value and appreciate your commitment to the Read to Me Project. This year program coordinators worked with 2,015 students.

Here are this year's heroic Read to Me Project schools:

Alisal Union School District

- Creekside Elementary
- Virginia Rocca Barton School

Gerber Union School District (Tehama County, CA)

- Gerber Elementary

Greenfield Union School District

- Arroyo Seco Academy
- Cesar Chavez Elementary
- Mary Chapa Academy
- Oak Avenue Elementary

Monterey Peninsula Unified School District

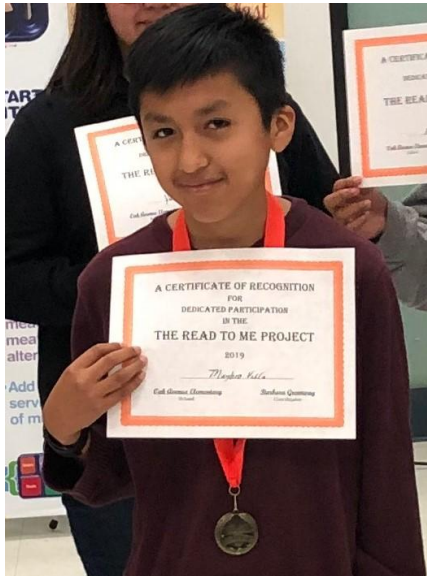
- Dual Language Academy of the Monterey Peninsula
- Foothill Elementary
- Highland Elementary
- Lone Olson Elementary
- Marina Vista Elementary Arts Academy
- Martin Luther King Jr. School of the Arts
- Ord Terrace Elementary

Incredible Teen and Adult Parent Education Partners

We also sincerely appreciate the partners who opened the door to Read to Me Project's "Key to Infinite Opportunities" Parent Education Program. 360 sessions were attended by teen and adult parents.

- South Monterey County Joint Union High School District, teen parents
- Door to Hope playgroups and Parents as Teachers, adult parents
- Greenfield Union School District, adult parents
- King City Union School District, adult parents

We are ready to serve you again next year and to expand to benefit even more schools and students. Please contact us with questions or to let us know of your interest in the core literacy program for students that also prepares preschoolers to enter your school's kindergarten classes on track, ready to learn and succeed. You may also be interested in RtMP's parent education program. Ed@readtomeproject.org.



Contact

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Another school year is about to end and it has been a good one. Thank you all! Have a wonderful summer!

Read to Me Project

