

October 2022

# SPOTLIGHT ON LITERACY



Read to Me  
PROJECT

SIBLINGS READING SUCCEEDING

A Read to Me Project Newsletter for Educators

Volume 3.1

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## Literacy-building Ideas

### *Picture Books & Literacy*

Two of Read to Me Project's most interactive "9 Best Ways to Read to Young Children," are #6-Point to Pictures As You Read and #7-Talk About The Pictures. We coach student readers to not just read the text of the books, but to spend as much time as possible on describing what their little ones are seeing on the pages. We underscore what students are already learning in school about integrating nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions in their writing. Students learn to apply these principles to reading out loud. Not only does the extended interaction help to engage little ones and keep them in front of books longer, it exponentially increases the number of words little ones are hearing and seeing.

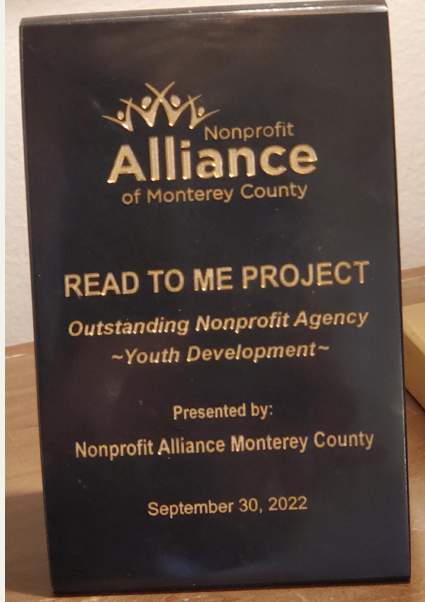
Research by Betty Hart and Todd Risely at the University of Kansas explains that "By age 3, children with professional parents have heard 30 million more words than children whose parents are on welfare." Without significant intervention, this gap doesn't close, and as students are quick to point out during Read to Me Project's initial classroom presentation, "that isn't fair!"

Dr. Dominic Massaro, Ph.D., UCSC, speaks in *EdSource* about the importance of reading aloud to children, and how "even simple picture books provide rich language acquisition opportunities." He also notes that reading aloud to a child has a "leveling effect for families with less education and a more limited vocabulary." This concept supports the Read to Me Project's mission perfectly. Many of our students are from homes where English is the second or even third language. We encourage students to spend time on the pictures, pointing to and talking about colors, numbers of things, shapes, patterns, situations, and to ask, "I wonder?" questions. A picture can give a child a thousand words and both students and their little ones benefit immensely from talking about them.

## Did You Know?

### *Read to Me Project Named Monterey County's Outstanding Nonprofit for Youth Development*

Imagine your students coming to school with the early literacy knowledge, language comprehension, and word recognition needed to be ready to learn how to read. Imagine 100% of your students becoming skilled readers in the third grade!



By engaging and coaching your 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students on Read to Me Project's "9 Best Ways to Read to Young Children," preschoolers are being given the foundation of early literacy during the first five years of their lives. They are becoming ready to academically start and stay on track in school year after year. It is proven that reading fluencies among the older participating students also improve.

Read to Me Project has trained and inspired thousands of students every year to read to young family members. Book-by-book, day-by-day, we hear that preschoolers - your future students - are using new words and loving books. They are waiting at the front door for their older brothers or sisters to come home from school with another new story to be read aloud to them.

As the nonprofit addressing the issue of low literacy among children on both preventative and remedial bases through participating 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes, the Nonprofit Alliance for Monterey County (NAMC) has named the Read to Me Project as Monterey County's Outstanding Nonprofit for Youth Development.

*NAMC advocates for the nonprofit industry offering support, bringing awareness, introducing resources, and by creating opportunities for collaboration within the community.*

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## New Faces

*Every new school year brings fresh faces of new students and teachers, and this year, we are excited to introduce our own new team members.*



**Program Director Amanda Evans** comes with more than fifteen years of broad business experience in both local and international corporate and non-profit environments.




**Executive Director Julia Foster** brings a wealth of non-profit experience, and her son is a RtMP alum!



"Not only did my daughter's reading levels improve quickly," Julia shares, "both children also loved the emotional connection that came with the Read to Me Project experience."

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## 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 | Student surveys | Book bin collected |
| Class orientation & <u>student enrollment</u> | Small group check-in               | Small group check-in             | Small group check-in             |                 | Teacher survey     |
| Book Bin delivery & training                  |                                    | Holiday Book Wrap event          | Book bin swap                    |                 | End-of-yr. Awards  |



The Read to Me Project supports Common Core Standards. Coaching session #3, "Make your Voice Interesting" and session #4, "Student Survey" support:CCSS.ELA.RL.4.7 by making connections between the text of a story and a visual or oral presentation of the text. The coaching sessions also align with 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 \(password: rtmp2021\)](#)

## Educator Approved

### *Reading Every Day for TK*

TK is coming to a school near you! Schools up and down California are gearing up for the expansion of TK, and RtMP is ready and excited to support the process. Our Quest Readers are those students who don't have little ones at home to read to, and they are on a quest to find someone to read aloud to – older siblings, parents, even a pet! "It's a perfect match," suggested one Greenfield teacher and we agree! Pairing Read to Me Project Quest Readers with the TK students is a great opportunity for readers to have someone to practice their new skills with. If you already have a reading buddy program or would like to initiate one with a TK or Kindergarten class in your school, let your coordinator know!

## 2021 - 2022 Annual Report

Please visit [ReadtoMeProject.org](https://ReadtoMeProject.org) to read about the achievements, challenges, and connections to teachers, students, and parents that took place over the 2021-2022 program year. Features include the complete interview with a 4th grade RtMP book bin manager, program goals and highlights, and a peek at what's to come by Executive Director Julia Foster.



## Resources

The Read to Me Project website has a section just [For Educators \(password: rtmp2021\)](#). Find fun reading [videos](#)

for your students that reiterate the content of student coaching sessions and model the "9 Best Ways to Read to Young Children."

Also, check out . . .

Storyline Online: SAG-AFTRA's video stories showcases books, in both Spanish and English, read aloud by well-known actors. One favorite of many is "la nevera de Maddi" read by Isabella Gomez, written by Lois Brandt Illustrated by Vin Vogel. <https://storylineonline.net/>

Monterey On-line Library Card: <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-i-z/library/how-do-i/get-a-library-card>



## Contact

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## Read to Me Project

