Read to Me PROJECT



Dear Read to Me Project Friends,

Learning begins with curiosity, and often it starts right at home. Recently, Theodore, my three-year-old son, has become captivated by maps and navigation. After we had read every children's book we could find on the topic, we unearthed an old Thomas Brothers Map of Monterey County. Now, he sits with his baby sister and reads the map aloud, tracing winding roads with his finger and announcing the names of places as if they were characters in a story waiting to be discovered. That sense of exploration is exactly how we spark inspiration in reading and learning in all of us.

Books are more than pages and print; they are guides that help us find our way into new ideas and connect deeply with others. Read to Me Project's 9 Best Ways framework uses "I Wonder Statements," which encourages readers to explore meaning together, to share predictions, and to build understanding through conversation. When students talk about characters and events, they begin to see how every story connects to the larger world and to their own lives.

May we all continue to follow our own maps of wonder, seeking out the things that fascinate us, talking about what we learn, and sharing our discoveries with those around us. Curiosity has the power to bring people together, and a love of reading helps light the way forward for us all.

Kindly,
Jason Little

MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!

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Help Us Empower Readers and Strengthen Communities!

The Monterey County Gives! campaign is officially underway, and we're

proud to once again be part of this incredible community effort supporting local nonprofits that make Monterey County stronger.

When you give to Read to Me Project through Monterey County Gives, your donation goes even further, with every dollar matched by generous local donors and sponsors.



Now through December 31st, your gift helps us continue to build a brighter future for children and families by:

- Building confident readers through literacy through leadership
- Supporting bilingual literacy programs in underserved communities
- Engaging parents through family reading and educational workshops

SUPPORT READ TO ME PROJECT TODAY!

Donate now at **MontereyCountyGives.com/read**

Thank you for helping us turn the page toward a stronger, more literate community!

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY LITERACY

HONORING READ TO ME PROJECT'S PROGRAM COORDINATOR BEVERLY VAN JOOLEN



Please join us in celebrating RtMP's Beverly van Joolen, recipient of the 2025 **Nonprofit Alliance of Monterey County (NAMC)** "Unsung Hero: Change Maker" Award!

For six years, Beverly has brought her passion, creativity, and deep care for students to every corner of our work. From inspiring students to find their voices to pioneering our new Reading

Buddies program, Beverly embodies the spirit of innovation and heart that defines **Read to Me Project**. We're grateful for her leadership, and delighted to see her incredible contributions recognized across Monterey County. Congrats Beverly!

MPC FAMILY STEM FAIR DAY



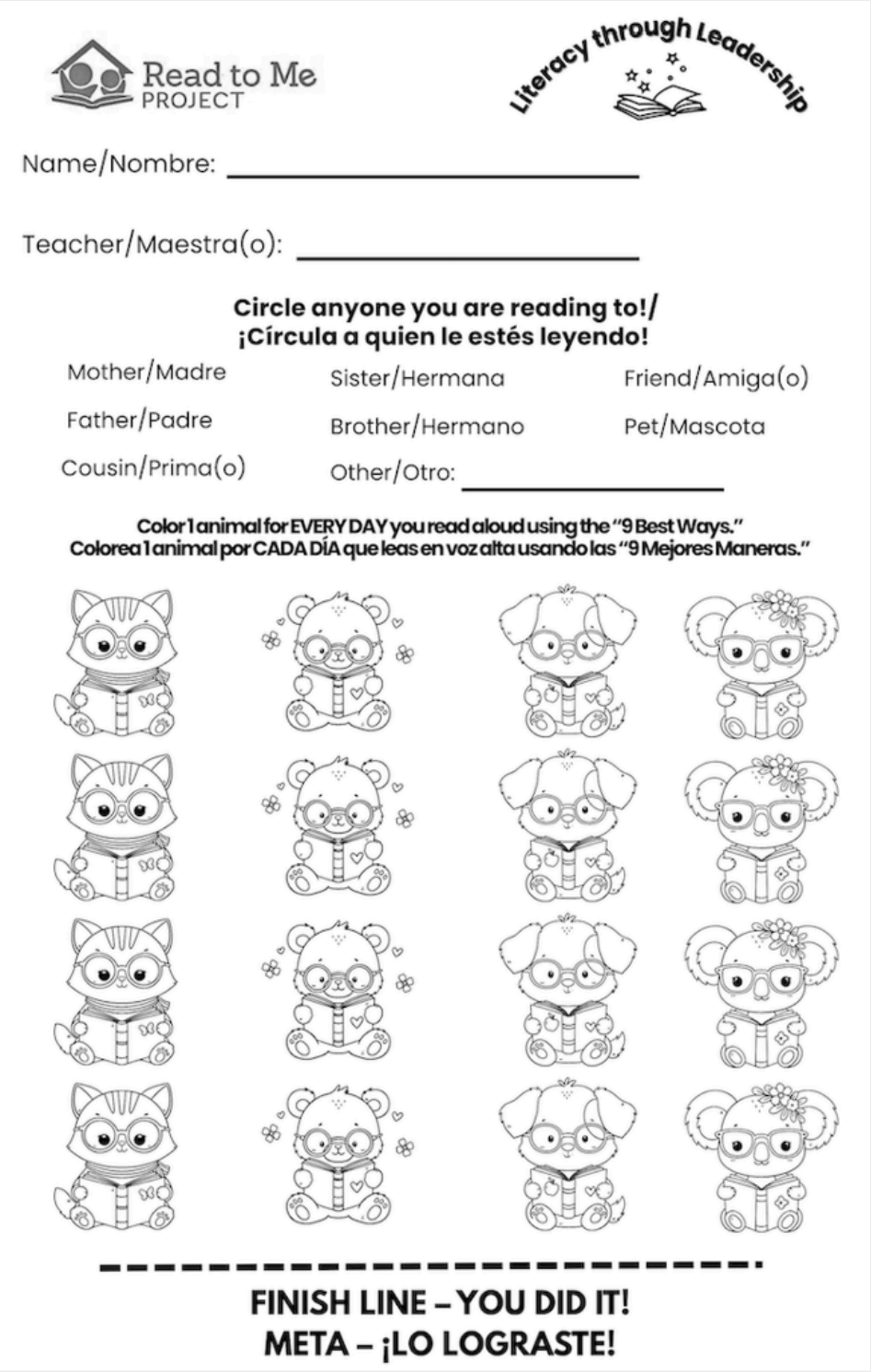


Not even the rain could dampen the excitement of nearly 900 people who showed up for the MPC Family STEM Fair Day! Read to Me Project was thrilled to be a community partner, hosting an interactive reading and educational booth. Families experienced everyday ways to make reading fun, discovered the power of literacy through leadership, and explored our reading nook filled with both English and Spanish books. The day was filled with learning, laughter, and literacy!

NOVEMBER IS FAMILY LITERACY MONTH

This month, we celebrate the joy of reading together, as a family and as a community, and the powerful impact it has on children's literacy and confidence.

To help you join in, click image and print (and save!) our **Bilingual Reading Chart** to share with your family and friends!



Whether you're reading to a sibling, parent, friend, or even a pet, every moment counts. Together, we can inspire a love of stories, strengthen literacy skills, and celebrate the small, powerful moments that shape young readers into confident learners.

Let's make reading a daily habit filled with joy, connection, and imagination!

If you know a school, teacher or community partner that would be excited about connecting with the Read to Me Project we'd love to talk!
Please contact Jason Little, Executive Director, at
Jason@ReadtoMeProject.org.

TARGET CIRCLE GIVING CAMPAIGN

We’re Halfway There—Let’s Keep the Momentum Going!



Read to Me Project is rocking this cycle of the Target Circle Giving Campaign! Your votes have helped our mission to empower literacy soar, and we are only halfway there!

Voting is free and runs now through December 31st.
Make an impact and vote TODAY!

And to keep the momentum going, please encourage your friends and family to cast their votes too, bringing books and reading joy to even more local children and families!

How You Can Vote for Read to Me Project:
-Sign in to your Target Circle account
-Go to the Community Giving section
-Vote for Read to Me Project!

Thank you for continuing to champion literacy and the power of reading together.

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT



"When older students read to their younger siblings, something special happens — confidence grows, family bonds strengthen, and a love of reading blossoms at home. Your support makes this possible, helping students become role models and building brighter futures for children through the power of books and shared stories."

- Anonymous Teacher (*2025 End of the Year Survey*)

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