

In YOUR library . . .

Help patron engage with a child anytime, even if child is far away

Enhance library relevance for the patron and child

Increase literacy level of adult patron

Increase literacy level of child

Strengthen the adult-child relationship

Strengthen the relationship between non-custodial or distant parent and caregiver

Give the child a reader and library user as a role model



For YOUR patrons!

- noncustodial parents
- grandparents
- English language learners
- migrant workers
- anyone living at a distance from the child



If you have questions or want to share your Read to the Children success stories, please contact Institutional Library Development:

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An idea for your library!



Read to the Children program

What is Read to the Children?

Since 1999, the Colorado Department of Corrections libraries and the Colorado State Library have provided donated children's books for incarcerated parents to read. Facility library staff record the parents reading and send the recording with the book to the child. Caregivers report that children who participate in this program maintain more positive relationships with their parents and spend more time with books after starting the program.



How it could work in your library

1. Library supplies children's books and recording equipment.
2. Patron schedules time to record the reading.
3. Library staff transfers recording to a CD.
4. Patron sends the CD and book to the child.

What you need

Books - can be donated or weeded from the collection and cleaned up, or patrons can bring in their own books

A quiet area for recording

Library staff or volunteers to demonstrate reading techniques and how to use recording equipment

One-time investment:

Digital voice recorder
\$100-125

For each recording:

Blank recordable CD
13-42¢ each

CD case
29-75¢ each



Other ideas

Offer recording opportunities after children's storytime at your library.

Encourage ESL students to select children's books and make recordings as class project.

Connect to summer reading programs.

Create video recordings instead of audio!



Resources

CLEL— Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy
www.clel.org

CSL— Colorado State Library—Children's and Teen Services
www.cde.state.co.us/ChildrensServices.htm

"A Colorado Storytime" — View on the Colorado State Library YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/coloradolibraries. To obtain a copy, contact Friends of Food For Thought at info@ffft.org or 303-321-0957.