



Reach Out and Read Illinois Resource Guide

Background: Illinois is a state rich in early childhood resources, thanks to decades of state and foundation investment. To support clinics implementing Reach Out and Read, the Reach Out and Read Illinois (ROR – IL) team developed this guide. This document combines foundational ROR documents and existing Illinois resources that support literacy and early childhood development so sites can connect families with the necessary supports. With the ever-changing landscape of early childhood in this state, we know that no guide will be comprehensive. However, we hope that this is a helpful start and will plan to update the guide regularly. If you identify missing resources, please contact us at coordinator@reachoutandreadil.org.

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Reach Out and Read Foundational Documents:

The ROR– IL team sifted through the online myror.org resource library to determine the most helpful documents for clinics. Where we saw a gap, we developed materials which can be used by any region in Illinois.

Big Picture:

- [Program Overview](#): This is a two-page description of the Reach Out and Read program.
- [Research](#): Reach Out and Read’s effectiveness is consistently supported by independent, peer-reviewed research.

Implementation:

- [Site Coordinator Manual](#): The site coordinator manual serves as a comprehensive guide to implementing ROR at your clinic. Topics include navigating your ROR clinic listing in myROR.org, ordering books, and tracking the distribution of books.
- Clinic Roles: Clinics list and update their primary and secondary contacts for this program in myROR.org. Click on each clinic role to view the roles and responsibilities: [Site Coordinator](#) (typically the primary contact) and [Medical Consultant](#).
- [Progress Report Overview](#): Twice each year, all participating ROR programs are required to report their programs’ activity by completing a Progress Report in www.myROR.org.
- [Program Quality Self-Assessment](#): Use this checklist to review the requirements for maintaining a high-quality Reach Out and Read program. We recommend using this tool at least once per year to reflect on your program and potential areas for improvement.

How-To Links (brief videos on how to navigate myROR.org):

- [MyROR Video Tutorial: Primary Versus Satellite Sites](#) 4/22/2022
- [MyROR Video Tutorial #3: Starting a New Site](#) 4/22/2022
- [Video Tutorial #4 Site Application Walkthrough UPDATE](#) 4/22/2022
- [MyROR Video Tutorial #1: Adding, Training, and Removing Contacts](#) 8/16/2022
- [MyROR Video Tutorial #2: Progress Reports](#) 8/16/2022
- [MyROR Video Tutorial: Getting Back on Track](#) 8/16/2022

Partnering with Libraries

- [Chicago Public Library](#): Chicago Public Library (CPL) offers a wealth of resources including [events and programs focused on children birth to five years](#), [free Museum passes for up to 4 individuals \(1-2 adults and 1-3 children\)](#), [information on Adult Learning opportunities](#), and so much more. [You can also register for a library card in person OR online.](#) **Chicago**
- [Family Reading Night](#): Each year, family literacy is encouraged in late November. Family Reading Night is an annually statewide event sponsored in cooperation with iREAD, an initiative of the Illinois Library Association, and Illinois Reads, a project of the Illinois Reading Council. Posters and bookmarks are made available for libraries, schools, youth and literacy organizations to promote their Family Reading Night programs. [Both will be available for download at the links on this webpage.](#) **Statewide**



- [CPL Library Toolkit](#): ROR partnered with Chicago Public Library (CPL) and five clinics implementing the program for a pilot project in 2022. Together, we developed the Reach Out and Read @The Chicago Public Library toolkit. This toolkit can help foster ideas for clinics collaborating with their local libraries.

Illinois Early Childhood Resources:

Illinois has a lot of early childhood resources to offer. With help from clinics already referring families to many of the available programs, we have vetted and created this list of those resources that best complement the Reach Out and Read program.

Book Distribution Programs

- [Bernie's Book Bank](#): Bernie's Book Bank supports efforts in primarily Title I schools and early childhood programs to ensure children have books to read at home. Bernie's Book Bank serves Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. [Fill out this form to request books.](#) **Chicagoland Area**
- [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#): Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income. [Click here to check availability in your zip code.](#) **Statewide in certain regions**
- [Open Books](#): Open Books (OB) is a nonprofit that aims to provide literacy experiences for readers each year through programs and the sale of new and used donated books. OB is also the Cook County partner for the DPIL, serving some zip codes in Chicago. [Click here to learn more on how to request donated books and establish Book Nooks in your waiting rooms.](#) **Chicago**
- [Our Future Reads](#): Our Future Reads takes in donated books and makes personalized donations to members of non-profit organizations in the Chicagoland area. [Reach out to their team to see how they might be able to add to your clinic's collection of donated books.](#) **Chicagoland Area**
- [Young, Black & Lit](#): Young, Black & Lit (YBL) was developed to increase representation and access to children's books featuring Black characters. As a partner to ROR-IL, YBL has supplied over \$30,000 worth of children's books to clinics across the state and has partnered with many pediatricians to deliver books directly to their clinics. [Complete this form to become a partner and receive period shipments of books.](#) **Statewide**

Early Childhood Networks

- Early Childhood Collaborations – Early Childhood Collaborations involve a group of stakeholders working to improve outcomes for the children in their area, whether that be at the neighborhood, municipal, or county level. Find out if your region has a collaboration to connect with by reviewing the [Early Childhood Collaboration Directory](#) on the www.partnerplanact.org website.
 - Ideas for collaborating: Many collaborations have coordinated intake for childcare and home visiting options and others develop hyper-local resource guides for their communities. While collaborations look different everywhere, here are some ways that collaborations have worked with ROR clinics:
 - Add posters and flyers to waiting room
 - Clinic representative sits on local collaboration committee
- [Birth to Five Illinois](#): Birth to Five Illinois is a statewide effort that brings local residents together to address the early childhood needs within their own communities. Birth to Five Illinois believes in elevating parent and family voice and ensuring that underserved communities receive priority services



and funding for early care and education. They are also bringing community members in each of the 39 regions across the State together to serve on their local Action and Family Councils.

[Click here to visit the dedicated page for your region where you can:](#) Meet your Regional Team, sign up for your regional newsletter, see who is serving on your region's Action Council and Family Council and read Council meeting notes. **Statewide**

Early Learning Programs

- [Illinois Action for Children:](#) Illinois Action for Children is a catalyst for organizing, developing and supporting strong families and powerful communities where children matter most. Resources for families include information on how to find and pay for childcare, a database of resources and referrals, and details about the healthy food program. [Click here to schedule a consultation.](#) **Statewide**
- [Chicago Ready to Learn:](#) The City of Chicago offers children across the city with access to early learning through a comprehensive, citywide system of school- and community-based programs known as Chicago Early Learning (CEL). CEL Website: ChicagoEarlyLearning.org & Hotline: 312-229-1690 **Chicago**
- [Baby Talk:](#) Founded in 1986, Baby TALK is a community family engagement model which provides the framework to guide home visitors, teachers, social workers, family support specialists and community partners in nurturing school readiness and optimal child development in their community by providing opportunities for infants, toddlers and their caregivers.

In addition to local programs accessible to families near the national office in Decatur, IL – Baby TALK is an evidence-based, research-informed Family Engagement Model implemented in over 100 active programs nationwide. [Click here to search for a program near you.](#) **Statewide in certain regions**

- [Home Visiting Services:](#) Home visiting provides family support and coaching through planned, regular visits with a trained professional based on a family's needs and schedules. Home visiting is a voluntary program, and home visitors work with parents on practical parenting skills as well as family bonding before birth and as children grow up. [Find contact information for a home visiting program.](#) **Statewide in certain regions**
- [Open Books Parent & Caregiver Workshops:](#) Open Books holds workshops for parents and caregivers who want to learn about how to support kids' literacy skills. They partner with schools, daycares, and community centers to provide literacy information suited to their needs. Groups range from parents with young children, caregivers at community organizations or other adults who work closely with children. Open Books offers sessions both online and in person in Spanish and English. To get in touch about scheduling a workshop for your group, reach out to programs@open-books.org. **Chicago**

Adult & Family Literacy

- [Adult Literacy Programs:](#) As of 2022, there are 68 Secretary of State / Illinois State Library funded Adult Literacy programs across Illinois. Grant projects provide instruction to help adults who read below the ninth-grade level or speak English at a beginning level to improve their basic reading, writing, math, or English language proficiency. Services are provided through the use of trained, unpaid volunteer tutors. **Statewide in certain regions**
- [Family Literacy Programs:](#) As of 2022, there are 28 Secretary of State / Illinois State Library funded Family Literacy programs across Illinois. Grant projects provide integrated, intensive instruction to improve the



basic reading, writing skills, math or English language proficiency of parents and children together. Services include adult education, child education, parenting education, literacy-based, interactive, parent-child activities and library services.

Projects also strengthen the ability of the parent to foster educational achievement and increase their ability to use the resources and services of the library. Services are provided through a partnership between a public library, an adult educational agency, and an organization that serves at-risk children.

Statewide in certain regions

Pediatric Clinic Programs

- [Lego Prescription for Play](#): Prescription for Play is a program delivered by primary care providers during routine wellness exams to promote play in children **18 months to 3 years**. The program offers free LEGO® DUPLO® bricks for care teams to distribute to these patients and their caregivers. The bricks and related educational material are used as prompts to engage caregivers around the benefits of play for development of emotional, cognitive, creative, social and physical skills.

All program materials are free. Enrollment includes DUPLO bricks, a virtual hub of program resources and trainings, implementation toolkits (manual, sample workflows and scripts), CME credits, technical assistance, enduring educational content and program support.

Prescription for Play is provided to you as a partnership of the Weitzman Institute, the innovation and research arm of Community Health Center, Inc., and the LEGO Foundation.

- [I-VAC](#): Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC) is a joint effort administered by the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP), the Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO)-Chicago, and the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP). Funding for this project was made possible by the Office of Disease Control, through the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Visit the I-VAC website to learn more about the resources and educational opportunities available to support you in integrating COVID-19 vaccines into your routine clinician workflows. If you have questions about COVID-19 vaccines or would like more information, [contact the I-VAC team](#). **Statewide**

State Agencies

- [Early Intervention](#): The Illinois Department of Human Services houses the Early Intervention Division. The purpose of these services are to help children between the ages of **birth to 3 years** with disabilities or delays, to learn and grow. Families with an eligible infant or toddler from birth to three are eligible.

Infants and toddlers are evaluated for delays in movement, learning, dealing with others, behavior, and/or self-help skills. If services are needed, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be written to set goals and identify needs. Families, with the support of Early Intervention Providers, help their infants and toddlers reach their goals.

To apply:

- [Use the DHS Office Locator to find an Early Intervention Child and Family Connections office in your local area.](#)




- Call 1-800-843-6154 (Voice/TTY).
- [Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies](#): The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) is a statewide organization which – in partnership with its 16 local Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR&R) agencies – is a recognized leader, catalyst, and resource for making high quality, affordable early care and education and school-age care options available for children and families in Illinois.

Reach Out and Read is a Program of ICAAP

Check out [ICAAP online](#) to learn more about the [other work going on](#) and [why you should become a member](#).


Further Benefit your ROR Clinic through Membership in ICAAP




ICAAP is Illinois' leading advocacy organization for pediatricians and their patients

We promote the collective voice of pediatricians to advance critical measures that promote health, safety, and clinics themselves and host Pediatric Advocacy Day to bring these stakeholders together. ICAAP has been key in passing laws that increase Medicare payouts and have secured an additional \$500,000 earmark for ROR in Governor Pritzker's 2024 budget.

We create venues for connection and collaboration




With a membership of nearly 2,000 pediatricians across the state, ICAAP provides many opportunities to expand your network. Our Annual Conference is our major event each year that draws physicians of different backgrounds and specialties for the unique speakers and networking offered by ICAAP.



We support your continued growth

ICAAP offers free continuing medical education opportunities throughout the year, including an average of three webinars per month, and we connect you to unique opportunities for low-cost CME offered through partner organizations.

Join ICAAP and receive a special discount rate for our conference!



From now through DATE, we are offering current ROR clinics who sign on to become members of ICAAP a special discount to this year's Annual Education Conference, taking place on November 9 and 10 in Naperville, IL.

Illinois Chapter
INCORPORATED IN ILLINOIS
American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

To learn more about joining ICAAP, contact
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