

# Prescribing Literacy for Preschool Children

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1: St Michael's Family Health Team, 2: Toronto Public Library, 3: Children's Book Bank, 4: First Book Canada

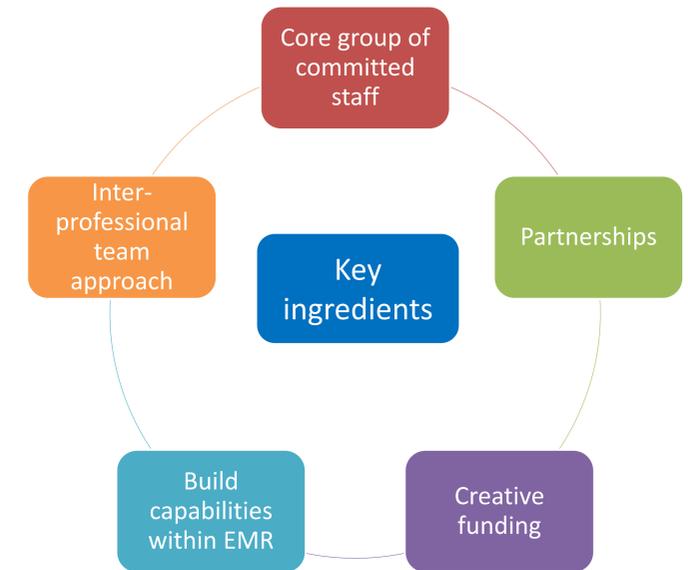
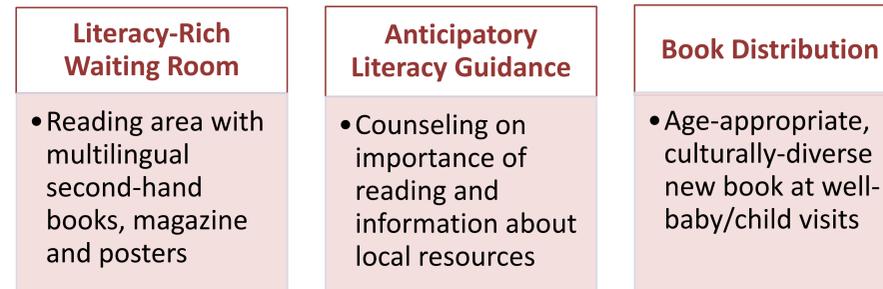
## Why promote literacy in health care?

- Low literacy is a problem in Canada
  - 42% did not meet high school graduation skill level (Stats Can 2003)
- Low literacy is associated with poorer health outcomes
  - Direct effects: eg can't read prescriptions
  - Indirect effects: low income → low prevention screening rates, etc

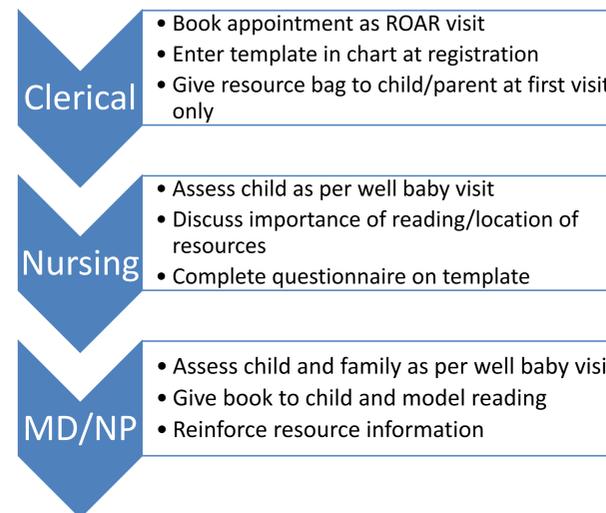
Prose level	% Not employed	Annual net income
1	17	\$29,000
2	11	\$36,000
3	8	\$41,000
4,5	6	\$61,000

## What is Reach Out and Read?

An early literacy program delivered at well-baby and child visits (from 6 months to 5 years of age) in doctors' offices. It has 3 components:



## Clinic Flow Involves the Whole Team



## Why use well child visits to promote literacy?

- We see kids early (90% of brain development before age 5)
- We see kids regularly (up to 8 visits by age 2)
- Parents respect advice from health care team
- Modelled after Reach out and Read (US) and Read, Speak, Sing (Canada)
  - improves language
  - parents read more frequently
  - kids are more ready for school
  - has on-line training programme

## Our Partnerships:

- Toronto Public Library
- Children's Book Bank
- First Book Canada
- St Michael's Hospital Foundation
- SMH Family Health Team Physicians
- Frontier College
- Toronto District School Board Parenting and Family Literacy Centres
- Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

## SMH FHT Reach Out and Read Tracking Form

SMH Reach Out And Read Tracking Form							
What language does this family speak most often at home?: _____							
Resource bags:							
Under 6 Months, resource bag given (once only): <input type="radio"/>							
Over 6 months, resource bag given (once only): <input type="radio"/>							
Age	2-6 months	1 year	18 months	2 years	3 year	4 years	5 years
Visit Date							
Book given to child?	<input type="radio"/>						
It can be difficult as a parent to find time to read.							
How many days each week do you read children's books with your child? 0-7							
Many people are not familiar with libraries and other services in their area.							
Have you visited a Toronto Public Library branch near you?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No						
Have you visited a Parent and Family Literacy Centre near you?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No						
Have you visited an Ontario Early Years centre near you?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No						
	ROAR guide			TPL Info			
				PFLC Info			
				OEYC Info			

## Implementation Roadmap

- Review programme and engage colleagues
  - [www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org)
  - SMT FHT power point available
- Investigate partnerships
  - Regional Public Library—manager
  - Ontario Early Years Specialists—MCYS
  - First Book Canada—free books
  - Parenting and Family Literacy Centres
  - Local Literacy Advocates—Children's book bank in Toronto
- Brainstorm re: funding for books
  - local businesses, TD bank, charitable organizations, hospital foundations
- Register with Reach Out and Read—can use SMH application guide
- Complete on line training for nurses and MDs
- Use SMH FHT tool kit for EMR templates
- Engage volunteers to support programme
  - Students, retired teachers, others