



Mission

Raising A Reader's mission is to engage parents in a routine of daily "book cuddling" with their children from birth to age five to foster healthy brain development, parent-child bonding, and early literacy skills critical for school success.



"One local mother told me that her 8 year-old could not read and that she herself did not graduate from high school, but that her 4 year-old was learning to read because of [Raising A Reader](#). She also shared that because of [Raising A Reader](#), she was learning to read and she had been inspired to go back to school to get her GED."

- Sarah Bishop, Success by 6 Director, United Way of Southampton Roads, Norfolk, VA

"[Raising a Reader](#) helps children and families prepare for the challenges of organizing and turning in homework on the date it is due. The book bags teach children to keep school materials stored in an orderly manner and the fact bags are rotated means that children and families need to return the books on time. Both of these skills are critical to success in the school years."

- Elizabeth Acosta-Crocker, Director of Children & Family Services, Unity Council, Oakland, CA

"As we engaged our community in conversation about school readiness, we learned that there is no universally accepted formula for preparing children for school. However, all the stakeholders agreed that nurturing pre-literacy skills and a love of reading are critical to a child's success, and that [Raising A Reader](#) effectively addresses those goals."

-Della Hodson, Director of Community Impact, United Way of Kern County, Bakersfield, CA

"[Raising A Reader](#) gives Spanish speaking parents the ability to practice reading basic English in the privacy of their home which begins to build confidence to read outside the home."

- Dawn Ryan, Preschool teacher, Aspen, CO

"The books and bags that go home with my 4 year-old daughter have helped my 7 year-old son just as much. He was behind in reading and below grade level in school. When the [Raising A Reader](#) books came home, he read them to my daughter every week. The books are helping and now he is at grade level with his reading. My daughter is using her finger like the teacher shows us and she knows what the books say from her imagination. She will be ready for kinder when she is five."

- Teresa, Mother, Migrant Education Even Start, Santa Cruz County, CA

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