



COLORADO

CREATING A LITERACY-RICH WAITING ROOM ON A BUDGET

Literacy-rich waiting rooms are a great way to enhance Reach Out and Read program sites and encourage families to read together. Here are a few tips for creating your own literacy-rich waiting area on a budget.

Literacy-Rich Waiting Area Ideas Under \$50

- Parent Resource Guide Materials
 - Reach Out and Read Developmental Milestones sheet or bookmarks
 - Reach Out and Read Reading Tips sheet
 - Local library information, hours, addresses, and story times
 - Flyers from other education, early intervention, or adult literacy programs
 - AAP pamphlets on developmental screening
- Gently-used books for patients and siblings to bring home
- Reach Out and Read posters and banners
- Questions displayed around the waiting room that further children's thinking about stories they already love
- Multicolored milk crates from dollar store for used book storage/seating
- Black and white copies of pages from books the children may use as coloring sheets, and volunteers can use to ask questions that expand on the text
- Child-centered magazines, such as Discovery Kids, Highlights, My Big Backyard, Cricket, and Wondertime



Under \$100

(Includes everything above, plus the following)



- Bean bag chair
- Bulletin boards with literacy themes
- Felt board with laminated characters
- Puppets for volunteer readers
- Laminated color copies of classic stories for use with dry erase markers
- Reach Out and Read shirts for staff to wear

Under \$350 (Includes everything above, plus the following)



- Area rug
- Bookshelf for children's books
- Rolling literacy cart
- Grab and write dry erase kits
- Story Boards with felt characters (or laminated with Velcro as JACHO requirements allow)

Under \$750 (Includes everything above, plus the following)

- Large area rug
- Child size table and chairs
- Book case



Resources and Websites

Be sure to check out myROR.org for templates, resources, and materials for your Reach Out and Read program.

Posters

- You can also purchase used classic children's books at thrift stores, remove the pages with eye-catching illustrations, frame, and hang in your waiting area.

www.getcaughtreading.org

www.alastore.ala.org

www.demco.com

Furniture and Rugs

- School Outfitters offers a special Reach Out and Read Catalog and 3% discount to our participating program sites. Contact your Regional Leader or email

jeff.boleyn@schooloutfitters.com

for a PDF of the catalog and more info.

- Stores like Target, Ikea, Wal-Mart, etc, also sell child-sized furniture.

www.kaplanco.com

www.demco.com

www.ecmdstore.com

Resources, Activities, and Materials

- Ask your local library for additional ideas and suggestions.

www.readingrockets.org

www.cpcbooks.org

www.pbskids.org

www.childcrafteducation.com

www.rif.org/literacy-central