

## CREATING A CULTURE OF LITERACY

Books for Ownership is Reading Is Fundamental's (RIF) flagship reading program that enables children to select new, age-appropriate books to take home and own. The program is supported by resources for caregivers, educators, and volunteers to create a continuous focus on reading and literacy. It relies on a simple yet fundamental truth: if you provide children choice and access, they will be more engaged readers.

With 25 million children not reading at a proficient level in the U.S., it is critical that we continue to get books into the hands of children. Since 1966, RIF has served over 100 million children and will continue to support children's literacy until all children have the fundamental building blocks to succeed.

## HOW BOOKS FOR OWNERSHIP WORKS

ACCESS



CHOICE



ENGAGEMENT



This program's approach to reading is anchored on three key tenets proven to create greater motivation to read: choice, access and engagement.

The program is designed to increase reading motivation, engagement, frequency and enjoyment to read and to enable communities to implement in the ways that meet the needs of the children they serve.

**Choice:** Children can choose books of their own at a local book distribution, celebration event. RIF curates high-quality books by a wide range of authors covering diverse topics, ensuring children can relate to the characters and experiences in the book.

**Access:** The program is based on providing children access to books. We work with schools, community organizations, and businesses nationwide to create easy access to children with limited books at home.

**Engagement:** To create continual engagement with the books at school and at home, RIF provides free supporting digital resources at [RIF.org/Literacy-Central](http://RIF.org/Literacy-Central); an online platform with thousands of reading resources including read-aloud videos, puzzles and games, reading logs, teachers guides, and more.

# IMPLEMENTING A BOOKS FOR OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

RIF's Literacy Network (RIF.org/Literacy-Network) is the online destination for program sites to find information, tools, and resources that will help them take action to plan and implement a Books for Ownership program. Program implementers can access ideas and best practices from our community of volunteers, community organizations, and local literacy advocates.

## Resources offered include:

- Steps to start a program
- Program Implementation Guide
- Customizable resources to enhance book distribution and celebration events
- Tips on integrating Literacy Central resources to extend the program all year at school and home
- Resources that help to encourage a continuous focus on reading throughout the year

“One month into the Covid-19 pandemic our District leadership team was meeting with our principals who struggled to think of ways to get new books into the hands of our students as the summer months approached. As students picked up their end of year packets, report cards, and materials from tables stationed outside schools on front sidewalks, they were also able to pick up three to five RIF books each for summer reading. As our schools and public libraries remained closed, your donation was a critical support in our work to limit summer learning loss.”

Kelly McGuire, Deputy Community Superintendent - NYCDOE District 15


## GROUNDED IN RESEARCH<sup>3</sup>


Research indicates that providing access to print materials:


- Improves children's reading performance
- Is instrumental in helping children learn the basics of reading
- Helps children to read more and for longer periods of time
- Produces improved attitudes toward reading and learning


## LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT

According to the RIF Books for Ownership Impact Survey (of 1,100 respondents), the program results in:

 **94%** of educators indicated a positive impact in their students' ability to read

 **95%** of educators said the program inspired students to love reading

 **91%** of educators shared that the program increased their child's frequency of reading

 **95%** of educators indicated an increase in their students' confidence in reading

<sup>1</sup>Source: 2019 NAEP Reading Assessment <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/highlights/reading/2019> <sup>2</sup>Reading Literacy in the United States, Findings from the IEA Reading Literacy Study, 1996. <sup>3</sup>In 2010, Reading Is Fundamental commissioned Learning Point Associates to conduct meta-analytic research synthesis of children's book lending and book ownership programs to determine the effect of providing access to print materials on children's educational outcomes.