



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

RAR HOUSING MODEL

- ▶ Parents receive training in how to develop the habit of sharing books with their children.
- ▶ High-quality books are rotated into the home on a weekly basis for families to practice regular book sharing.
- ▶ Families are connected to the local library in order to maintain book borrowing and book sharing practices.



CORE PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- 1 Program staff are trained to promote family engagement and implement the program.
- 2 Parents are trained to develop book sharing routines in the home and to practice 'parent-friendly' book sharing techniques with their children.
- 3 Each week, children bring home a different bag filled with beautiful, high-quality multicultural books.
- 4 Families are connected to their local libraries so they can maintain their family book sharing routines.

EVIDENCE-BASED

Outcome data from 34 independent evaluations demonstrate that Raising A Reader effectively fosters family engagement and literacy behaviors, promotes connections with local libraries, and develops early language and literacy skills in young children. Please see the evidence summary for more information.

SCALABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE

Books and materials are used year after year, making Raising A Reader a cost-effective program for your community. The program can be started for a little over \$110 per child, with an annual average cost per child served over a five-year period of about \$35.

ABOUT US

Raising A Reader (RAR) is a national nonprofit organization offering local agencies an evidence-based early literacy and parent engagement program that has demonstrated it can improve the reading readiness skills of children birth to age eight.

FAST FACTS

- Since 1999, RAR has reached more than 1.625 million children.
- In 2017, RAR served more than 126,000 children and their families.
- RAR has 290 affiliate partners in 37 states in more than 2,900 implementation sites.
- RAR has 34 independent evaluations demonstrating its impact on family engagement, language and early literacy skills.

RAISING A READER HOUSING MODEL

The Raising A Reader (RAR) program is flexible and can be adapted to meet the unique needs of children and families in diverse settings. RAR is currently being implemented in housing communities in several different ways:

- On-site after school programming
- Residential services
- Play groups

Many housing communities offering after school programs partner with outside agencies to facilitate these services. These staff can be trained in implementing the RAR program. When effectively implemented, RAR is a tool that can be used to further engage families in their after school program as well as develop literacy in the home.

Apartment communities that have residential service coordinators on-site can offer RAR as a benefit for their families. This is a powerful tool for recruiting and retaining families at the sites. Residential coordinators receive training in RAR implementation and facilitate the program with families.

Apartment communities that do not have residential service coordinators can still implement RAR. With training, the apartment manager can hold fun parent events/workshops for families in a playgroup setting. The bright Red Book Bags are rotated from the community manager's office, giving the apartment manager a tool for positive interaction with residents.

For more information about bringing RAR into your housing community, email rarinquiry@raisingareader.org or call (650)489-0550.

SELECT NATIONAL PARTNERS



PRAISE FOR RAISING A READER

"The most engaging aspect of the RAR program is that parents and children come together each week. Families who are living in the same complex but haven't previously met have the opportunity to become friends, establish a network of support, and build community."

Family Literacy Manager
Tucson, AZ

"The program has helped my son to get more excited about learning to read and we find him in his bedroom "reading" through the books on his own now. Not only that, but it gives us something to look forward to each night as we get to read together before bed time. And, when he sees books he's taken home before, he still gets excited because he remembers the story. We wanted to thank you very much."

Parent
Kern County, CA



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