

Sparking Literacy



TOPLINE NEWS FROM READ TO ME PROJECT

MARCH 2021

Is There a Silver Lining to Covid-19?

Proyecto Léeme (Read to Me Project) is giving parents la clave de la oportunidad infinita (the key to infinite opportunity) for their children. We teach parents about the importance of language development and literacy readiness as essential keys to school success.

Until recently, reaching parents was a challenge even before Covid-19 struck. The parents work long hours, often six days a week, possibly two jobs, with little time for anything more than feeding their families and tending to household chores. We were asking a lot of them to find time, transportation, and even childcare to attend a session in person.

No one has been untouched by Covid-19. When schools closed, RtMP's implementation logistics were quickly adapted for distance learning last year and, while we hope to return to working with students in person next fall, it turns out online sessions are better for parents.

RtMP is conducting online parent education sessions in Spanish and most recently in Triqui for a group of more than 50 Oaxacan parents. We believe this to be the most vulnerable demographic and the hardest to reach yet, through new collaborations, we have found a way.

In addition, beginning this month, RtMP Parent Ed for Dads is being offered to fathers by a father who has been integral to the program.

Special Note: Thank you to our new collaborators, Door to Hope and Parents as Teachers. Not only did offering the parent education program online make it easier for parents to attend, these wonderful



BIG NEWS!

Pregnant and parenting teens to receive RtMP parent education program

School District: South Monterey County Joint Union High School District (SMCJUHS)

School: Pinnacle Academy Charter.*

Enrolled Students: 16 student parents (15 moms and 1 dad) of children ages 0-2 years old with a few students who are still pregnant.

Sessions: 8 weekly sessions beginning March 18th will be conducted by a RtMP program coordinator. Students will receive class credit and their teacher will add assignments that align with RtMP's curriculum.

**Pinnacle Academy Charter is the SMCJUHS's only school for pregnant and parenting teens. Representatives of seven school districts in the Monterey County Adult Education Consortium are expected to receive the piloting district's recommendation to include Read to Me Project in their similar programs.*

organizations increased attendance by endorsing and extending RtMP invitations to their networks of parents of young children.



Student Coaching Session #2 "Make YOUR Voice Interesting"

RtMP is a valuable resource to schools by not only addressing the major literacy gap challenging pre-k aged little ones when they start kindergarten, RtMP remedially helps schools' emerging readers, AND our curriculum aligns with common core state standards* by reinforcing required lessons.

Our program coordinators have just completed RtMP's coaching session entitled, "Make Your Voice Interesting" with 67 4th and 5th grade classes. During this session, students practice reading aloud using facial expressions, gestures, and interesting voices. A new activity that RtMP program coordinators have included this year is to have students listen to short audio clips of speeches by Martin Luther King Jr., Michelle Obama, and Amanda Gorman. The students listened for how the speaker varied his or her tone of voice and then talked about what they heard.

One teacher recently commented to a RtMP program coordinator that RtMP's coaching session called, "Make Your Voice Interesting", was very helpful and more concise than her own lesson for preparing her students to give speeches in class.

**The Common Core State Standards Initiative is an educational initiative that details what K-12 students throughout the United States should know in English language arts and mathematics at the conclusion of each school grade.*

You donated **\$58,478** to Read to Me Project through the Monterey County Gives! Campaign.
22% more than last year. Thank you!



Why We Do This

When asked about their little one's favorite book, one student told us that her brother loves the Animal Colors book from the RtMP book bag. He loves it so much that her parents went on Amazon and bought a copy. They know they needed to return RtMP's copy and since the little boy even sleeps with it, they bought a copy to keep.

Another student's little one moved to Mexico in December, but she loves reading so much that she has continued to read to her little one in Mexico using Zoom!

4th grader Valencia told us, "I feel very happy when I read to my little one because he is paying more attention than before and his English vocabulary is increasing, and is more advanced than before." She is proudly seeing a big difference as a result of reading to him.

**A very few of many, many stories we hear that are
the heart and soul of Read to Me Project.**

Learn More

The children need your support

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