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Site Visits Completed

215

So far, we've visited sites in **15** of 16 Maine counties and in **96** towns. We look forward to visiting sites we haven't reached yet!

Thank You

Thanks go to **Bayview Pediatrics, Two Rivers Family Practice, Coastal Health Center & Horizons Caribou Health Center Pediatrics** for participating in the second pilot of our parent survey.

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Raising Readers Update

Tough Choices -- How We Pick Books

The Book Selection Committee met in March to review books for possible inclusion in the 2007 Collection. There are so many great children's books out there that it takes a ton of work! Almost **80** books were reviewed at the day long meeting.

The statewide committee is made up of physicians, librarians, parents, early childhood specialists, childcare providers, and home visitors. The group makes recommendations on books and helps determine age appropriateness, etc. Check out the photos below for a look at the action!



Book Selection Criteria

1. Books should be high quality.

- Illustration should be considered an art form. Art should "tell the story" on its own to support parents with low reading levels.
- Only hardcover or board books should be selected for distribution.
- Books should not be abridgments.

2. Books should be appealing.

- Look for books that will be requested repeatedly by young readers.
- Parents should also enjoy the books.
- Strive to achieve a balance of titles for a wide range of interests.

3. Books should be appropriate.

- Developmentally targeted to each age level.
- Reflect diversity while not imposing values. Books should represent and reflect where we live as well as broaden the child's and parent's world.
- Mass market commercialism is inappropriate.

4. Books should be accessible and available.

- They should not be too difficult for parents with low reading levels.
- Titles for distribution should be available in a high quality format. Those recommended for further reading should be available for purchase, or at libraries.
- Titles for distribution should not be too expensive.