



Site Update



Why Raising Readers & Early Literacy Matter

Included in this mailing is a policy brief outlining why early literacy is important. The brief was developed by Raising Readers and the Maine Children's Alliance and was released in conjunction with the annual **Infant Toddler Awareness Day** at the State House in early January.

Many of the messages will sound familiar to those of you who have participated in Raising Readers over the last 8 years.

- Children develop early literacy skills during the first five years of life.

- Reading to children is the one early childhood experience identified as making a difference in later success in school.
- Brain development in the first three years of life lays the foundation for all our future cognitive efforts

The Brief notes that Maine has one of the highest rates in the nation for children being read to every day (64%). Your support of early literacy programs like Raising Readers, improves school readiness in young children.

Since the program began in 2000, we have pro-

vided more than 1.2 million books to Maine children. Your guidance and advice to parents about reading to children paired with the gift of beautiful books, has been a big part of Maine's success in preparing children to learn to read.

Accompanying the Policy Brief is the Raising Readers **2008 Annual Report**. We hope you'll enjoy reading about the many ways the program and participating sites have reached Maine children.

In 2008, we distributed 176,000 books through 373 practices and hospitals to over 74,000 individual children.

Snail Mail versus Email

We generally distribute our monthly **Site Update** and **Book List and Log** in two ways: via snail mail for those who want to receive paper copies and via email to those who prefer to receive it electronically. This month we're sending paper copies to **all** sites since we are already mailing the Annual Report and the Policy Brief.

We'll resume sending the **Update** and **Book List** electronically in March. In February we will also mail hard copies to all sites, since we'll be sending samples of our new brochure to all sites. The new brochures highlights recommended children's books on bedtime, feelings, healthy eating, toilet training and much more!

If you'd like to be added to the email distribution list, send an email to: admin@raisingreaders.org

You can download and print **Report and Order forms** and the **Book List and Log 24\7**.

raisingreaders.org/getforms

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Keep everyone at your site in the loop by posting or sharing this newsletter with all staff. Thanks.

Questions?

Anne Quirion
Program Coordinator
Western & Southern
Maine

800-397-3263 [x3](mailto:anne@raisingreaders.org) or
541-7561
anne@raisingreaders.org

Kate Bartley, MPA
Program Coordinator
Eastern & Northern
Maine

800-397-3263 [x2](mailto:kate@raisingreaders.org) or
973-4946
kate@raisingreaders.org

