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# READ FROM THE START

## Program Request Form

**READ from the START** is the Missouri Humanities Council's statewide family reading initiative. *RFTS* is designed to encourage parents/caregivers of children ages 0 to 5 to create positive experiences with their children using books and stories.

### Participants in the **READ from the START** program:

- Learn about the role of language and stories in early child development.
- Read, discuss, and enjoy the same books that they will take home to their children.  
Parents learn techniques to continue story exploration, such as crafts, songs, and dramatic play.
- Receive a selection of seven **FREE** outstanding children's books to keep for use at home.

### How It Works:

**READ from the START** is currently offered **free of charge**. Our target audience includes parents/caregivers who may have limited access to books, face economic hardships or educational challenges that make reading to their children difficult.

- Local agencies like Head Start, Parents as Teachers, libraries, or charitable agencies may contact the Council to request a **READ from the START** program.
- The format for the program is two 90-MINUTE sessions scheduled one to two weeks apart. Children do not attend the sessions. A certified RFTS facilitator leads the group of parents through discussions and activities.
- The local agency promotes **READ from the START** and is responsible for doing the outreach necessary for recruiting the *minimum of fifteen participants*.
- The local agency provides a meeting space for the program. Optional childcare and refreshments are encouraged.
- The Missouri Humanities Council provides a certified discussion leader, program materials, promotional materials and assistance necessary for creating a successful **READ from the START** program.

**To apply for a *READ from the START* program, complete this Request Form and email, mail or fax to:**

**Julie Douglas**, Family Program Specialist  
Missouri Humanities Council  
543 Hanley Industrial Court, Suite 201  
St. Louis, MO 63144-1905

Fax: 314.781.9681  
Email: [Julie@mohumanities.org](mailto:Julie@mohumanities.org)  
Web: [www.readfromthestart.org](http://www.readfromthestart.org)

**For more information, please call 314.781.9660 OR call toll-free 800.357.0909**



# READ FROM THE START

**PLEASE NOTE:** Programs are approved based on availability of funding. MHC program staff will contact you to finalize arrangements or notify you of any problems. You will receive a confirmation letter including the name of the scheduled discussion leader and report form.

## Sponsoring Non-Profit Organization:

Complete Address of Organization:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Organization Phone

Name of person requesting this program

Complete Address (if different from above):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone

Evening Phone

Fax

Email Address (required for promotional materials)

On-Site Program Coordinator's Name (if different)

Phone Number

**READ from the START** is offered at *no charge* to participants and approved sites. Is your program or institution able to underwrite some or all of the costs\* associated with funding *RFTS* at your site?

**Donation amount:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The average program cost is \$1,500.

Number of Anticipated Participants:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Minimum 15), 20 sets of books will be provided*

Requested **date** and **time** of **1<sup>st</sup> session**:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested **date** and **time** of **2<sup>nd</sup> session**:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

*(one to two weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> session is preferred)*

Program Location

Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

County

**Directions to location:** from St. Louis or Kansas City – whichever is closer (attach pages if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this location handicapped accessible?  Yes  No

Will there be refreshments (optional)?  Yes  No

Will childcare be provided at this site?  Yes  No

**Please note:** Childcare is not required but is strongly suggested because of its value to participants.

Has this site hosted a RFTS program previously?

Yes  No

When:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

If your site has hosted a *RFTS* program previously, please recruit parents who have not attended a *RFTS* program in the past.

**Please describe your non-profit organization.** What is your mission? What services do you provide? Whom do you serve? Where is your outreach area? How are you funded? Etc. (attach additional pages as needed)

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**Please describe your intended audience.** Why is *READ from the START* an important program for your audience? How do you see it making a difference for your community? (attach additional pages as needed)

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**Are you willing to participate in a follow-up evaluation and outcomes tracking process?**  Yes  No

RFTS programs offer an opportunity to share information about additional local resources available to parents. Please provide the following information:

Local Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Story Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents as Teachers Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Adult Literacy Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Local Parenting Resource #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Local Parenting Resource #2: \_\_\_\_\_

***We recommend that you have information about these resources for distribution at your RFTS program. Also consider having representatives from these agencies present at RFTS or at a follow-up meeting.***

**Funding for RFTS is limited and is sometimes restricted to specific towns or regions of the state. If you are interested in underwriting a portion of the costs of the program, please call us. Financial contribution is NOT a consideration in selection of sites for *READ from the START*.**

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DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE. FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

Confirmation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Discussion leader name and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Funding Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Paperwork complete: \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting Materials Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

## Participants and Discussion Leaders Reviews

### Comments from Participants and Program Sites

*“The father from the first session who did not wish to read aloud and shared that he had no favorite books or memories about books from his childhood, actually read to his daughter after the first session. The staff has never seen him interact with his child in this way before.”*

– Site Coordinator, Randolph Co. Family Literacy Center, Moberly

*“After my first session I called up a friend and told her about it. I loved it so much.”*  
*“I learned how to try to be creative and to stop and talk about what’s happening in the story.”*  
*“Excellent program! Especially for parents who have just started a family.”*

– Participants, Cass County Public Library at the Archie Branch, Archie

*“I loved this class. It taught us to really look at the books instead of just reading the words.”*

– Participant, Winwood School, Kansas City

*“Ever since we went to the workshop with the librarian, Brenden loves his books. We now read every day together thanks to you!”*

– Participant, McIntire Early Intervention Preschool, Fulton



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Missouri Humanities Council  
encourages you to  
*READ from the START!*