



Read *from the Start*

Missouri Humanities Council Family Program

Read from the Start is the Missouri Humanities Council's statewide family reading program. **RFTS** is designed to encourage parents/caregivers of children ages zero to five 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 **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.

Host sites may choose between **one 2-HOUR session** with 5 free books **or two 90-MINUTE sessions** with 7 free books scheduled one to two weeks apart.

Children do not attend the sessions. A certified **RFTS** Discussion Leader leads the group of parents through discussions and activities.

The host site promotes **Read from the Start** and is responsible for doing the outreach necessary for recruiting the **MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN PARTICIPANTS**.

The host site 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:

Director of Family & Veterans Programs
Missouri Humanities Council
Grand Central Building at Union Station
415 South 18th Street, Suite 100
St. Louis, MO 63103

Phone: 314.781.9660 (or toll-free 800.357.0909)
Fax: (314) 781-9681
E-mail: lisa@mohumanities.org
Web: www.readfromthestart.org

Read from the Start

Program Request Form (Page 1)

For OFFICE Use Only

Email Confirmation: _____

DL: _____

PLEASE NOTE: **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: _____

E-MAIL: (REQUIRED FOR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS)

ON-SITE PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S NAME: (IF DIFFERENT)

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL: _____

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.

HAS THIS SITE HOSTED A **RFTS** PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY?

IF YES, WHEN? _____

IF NO, HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US? _____

NUMBER OF ANTICIPATED PARTICIPANTS: _____

(Minimum 15)

I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST: ONE, 2-HOUR SESSION **OR**
 TWO, 90-MINUTE SESSIONS

REQUESTED DATE AND TIME OF 1ST SESSION:

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

REQUESTED DATE AND TIME OF 2ND SESSION:

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

(One to two weeks after 1st session is preferred)

PROGRAM LOCATION:

ADDRESS:

COUNTY: _____

IS THIS LOCATION HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE? Yes No

WILL THERE BE REFRESHMENTS (OPTIONAL)? Yes No

WILL CHILD CARE BE PROVIDED AT THIS SITE? Yes No

(PLEASE NOTE: CHILD CARE IS NOT REQUIRED BUT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED BECAUSE OF ITS VALUE TO PARTICIPANTS.)

WILL YOU HAVE ANY SPANISH-SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS?

YES NO

BOOKS *IF YOUR SITE HAS HOSTED **RFTS** WITHIN THE PAST 18 MONTHS, AND YOU BELIEVE THAT MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS WHO REGISTER WILL HAVE ATTENDED **RFTS** BEFORE, YOUR SITE MAY REQUEST THAT A DIFFERENT SET OF BOOKS BE USED IN YOUR PROGRAM.

*WE WOULD LIKE ORIGINAL **RFTS** books **OR**
 RFTS SET B books

Read from the Start

Program Request Form (Page 2)

All host sites are required to complete a **Site Evaluation Form and Cost Share Form** within two weeks of a completed program. This information is very important in helping us secure funding for future **RFTS** programs. Please check the box that you have read and agreed to this request. **Agreed**

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 LIBRARIAN: _____

PARENTS AS TEACHERS CONTACT: _____

LOCAL ADULT LITERACY PROVIDER: _____

LOCAL PARENTING RESOURCE: _____

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.

If this is your first time applying for a RFTS program or if you have not applied in the past three years, please fill out the information below.

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. WHAT SERVICES DO YOU PROVIDE? WHAT IS YOUR MISSION?

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR INTENDED AUDIENCE. WHOM DO YOU SERVE? _____

WHY IS **RFTS** AN IMPORTANT PROGRAM FOR YOUR AUDIENCE? HOW DO YOU SEE IT MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

HOW ARE YOU FUNDED? _____

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**.



Book Lists

Original Set (For first-time **RFTS** programs or any site that would like to use them)

Black on White by Tana Hoban
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Mouse Count by Ellen Stoll Walsh
A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams
Gregory the Terrible Eater by Mitchell Sharmat
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Set B (For sites that have held **RFTS** within the last 18 months)

Moo Baa La La La by Sandra Boynton
Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang
Each Peach Pear Plum by Allan and Janet Ahlberg
Frederick by Leo Lionni
The Napping House by Don and Audrey Wood
Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson
Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco or
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox

*Please see information on Program Request Form to determine which set is right for your group.

COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS & 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, my son loves his books. We now read every day together thanks to you!"

-- Participant, McIntire Early Intervention Preschool, Fulton