Family Read from the Start Application

Read from the Start (RFTS) is the Missouri Humanities (MH) 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 a set of FREE children’s books that they will take home to their children.
- Explore techniques to enhance story time, such as crafts, songs, and dramatic play.
- Learn how reading, writing, talking, playing, and singing helps develop early literacy skills.

How It Works:

✓ RFTS is 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 RFTS program.

✓ The Family Program is a one 60-Minute Session with 4 free books.

✓ Children aged 0-5 may attend the program. A certified RFTS Discussion Leader leads the participants through discussions and hands-on activities.

✓ The host site promotes RFTS and is responsible for doing the outreach necessary for recruiting the minimum of 5 families and no more than 12 families.

✓ The host site provides a clean, child-friendly space for the program (carpeted areas preferred).

✓ The Missouri Humanities provides a certified Discussion Leader, program materials, promotional materials and assistance necessary for creating a successful RFTS program.

To apply for a Read from the Start program, complete this Request Form and email, mail or fax to:

415 South 18th Street | Suite 100 | St. Louis, MO 63103
lisa@mohumanities.org | Phone: 314.781.9660 | Toll Free: 1.800.357.0909 | Fax: 314.781.9681
www.mohumanities.org | www.readfromthestart.org

Updated: 4/11/19
Please Note: Missouri Humanities (MH) 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 (DL) 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 Address: (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? ___ Yes ___ No

If Yes, When? ____________________________

Number of Anticipated Families: ________ (Minimum of 5 and Maximum of 12)

Requested Date and Time of Session:

Date: ____________________________ Time: __________

Alternative Requested Date and Time (If Applicable):

Date: ____________________________ Time: __________

Program Location: ____________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________

County: _________________________________________________________________

Is this location handicapped accessible? ___ Yes ___ No

Will there be refreshments (optional)? ___ Yes ___ No

During the Family Program We Ask That Host Sites Have 1-2 Additional Staff On Hand To Assist With the Program.

Will You Be Able to Provide Additional Staff If Needed? ___ Yes ___ No

Will You Have Spanish-speaking Participants? (If Yes, the MH Will Call to Discuss Program Specifics) ___ Yes ___ No

Please Note: Your assigned DL will choose (4) books from the book list on page 4 of the application.
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 initial that you 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?

If you are interested in underwriting a portion of the costs of the program, please contact us. Financial contribution is NOT a consideration in selection of sites for Read from the Start.
Set C Book List

Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems

From Head to Toe by Eric Carle

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin

Who Has This Tail? by Laura Hulbert

I Ain’t Gonna Paint No More! By Karen Beaumont

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Everywhere Babies by Susan Meyers

COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS & PROGRAM SITES

“Having the children attend was amazing. It helped because we learned by doing and I didn’t have to find childcare.

-- Participant, Daniel Boone Regional Library, Columbia

“I loved how the kids were included in the program. My children enjoyed playing along with the other kids by answering questions about the books, as well as, acting them out.”

-- Participant, Waynesville Library, Waynesville

“I have done this program with parents only and now with the kids mixed in. I love doing it with the kids and seeing all the activities.”

-- Participant, James Memorial Public Library, St. James

“It was perfect having the parents and children together. I loved all the resources the parents were given and the children were well engaged.

-- Program Coordinator, Literacy KC, Kansas City