

**Reading for Healthy Families (RFHF) Oregon
Building Communities of Learning
Description, Benefits, and Commitments**

Objectives

Reading for Healthy Families (RFHF) is a unique and multi-faceted early literacy education project that proposes to increase the number of Oregon children ready to read when they begin kindergarten.

Reading for Healthy Families is a three-year, statewide project funded by the Oregon Community Foundation and Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, and administered by the Oregon State Library and the Oregon Commission on Children Families.

RFHF's first objective is to increase the number of qualified Every Child Ready to Read @ your library (ECRR) standardized trainers from 1 to 12.

RFHF's second objective is to provide early literacy training and resources to 300 Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff statewide.

RFHF's third objective is to provide early literacy education to statewide to 4,500 families with children birth-5 years old.

RFHF's fourth objective is to foster local partnerships among Healthy Start programs and libraries in all 36 counties to continue providing early literacy education, activities, and resources for families in their communities long after RFHF is completed.

Brief report on year one: 2008-2009

94 Family Support Workers and children's librarians representing 14 counties and 28 Oregon communities signed up to participate in the first year of RFHF and by May, 2009 had already provided over 900 early literacy parent education activities for almost 700 families.

Benefits for participants in year two: 2009-2010

During this second year, RFHF will expand to 100 new Healthy Start family support workers and children's librarians in 4 Cohorts in 13 counties: Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Yamhill, Douglas, Lane, Coos, Curry, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, and Lake.

ECRR trainers will provide intensive early literacy training in the *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library*® curriculum and early literacy parent education activities to the Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff

Healthy Start family support workers and children's library staff already have established relationships with families through existing programs and services. They will expand their existing programs and services by presenting focused early literacy parent education activities using a variety of resources provided by RFHF.

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Families will learn about:

- Early literacy skills
- Why early literacy is important for their child's later success in school
- How to provide fun activities that develop these early literacy skills
- How to make reading with their children fun
- How to access available early literacy resources to support their children in getting ready to read

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read or write. From birth throughout the preschool years, children develop knowledge of books, spoken language, letters, writing, and the sounds that form words. Through the parent education activities, families will improve the quality and increase the quantity of early literacy experiences they have with their children.

Two Site Coordinators will be selected for each Cohort: one will represent Healthy Start staff, and one will represent library staff. Site Coordinators will receive a small stipend, will support networking and communication for the RFHF Participants, and will facilitate networking segments of RFHF Training Sessions One and Two. Site Coordinators will provide local logistical recommendations and on-site logistical support to the RFHF Project Coordinator for the two training sessions.

Library and Healthy Start Supervisors will be critical to strengthening the partnership between libraries and Healthy Start. Supervisors will be invited to participate in a refresher course on marketing, networking, sustaining early literacy efforts, and locating early literacy resources. Library and Healthy Start Supervisors will work to create local early literacy projects and activities that build upon existing programs and services and that will remain in effect beyond the life of this project.

Commitments of participants in year two: 2009-2010

- Attend both the first two-day training session and the second two-day training session for your cohort
- Complete the pre- and post- evaluation for the project
- Invite your supervisor to attend the recognition luncheon and to participate in a refresher course on the afternoon of the second day of the second two-day training. If your supervisor cannot attend you will be expected to attend so that all participating Healthy Starts and libraries are represented.
- Provide *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library*® and other early literacy education, support and resources to at least 15 families with children birth-5 years of age over the course of the next twelve months.