

# About bookspring

## What We Do

BookSpring creates systemic change by transforming communities into a wealth of opportunities for families to move their children successfully along the continuum of literacy development. Our programs reach low-literacy families at the very earliest point in their child's development, coaching them to optimize the critical early months and years of brain development, and to make reading aloud an integral part of family activities so that children grow up with books and a love of reading. Families find support, encouragement, and resources to build a strong foundation for language and literacy acquisition.

### Educate parents how to nurture their children's early language and literacy development

- We serve first-time mothers and families with young children.
- We reach them when they take their children to and from school, and while they receive prenatal services at healthcare clinics.
- Current and prospective parents gain awareness of their roles as their children's first and most important teacher, plus the confidence, motivation, and skills necessary to share books with their children on a regular basis.



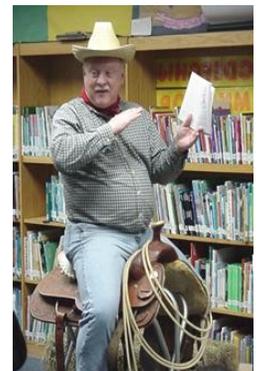
### Train early childhood professionals to blend literacy intervention with their other services



- We partner with healthcare clinics, childcare centers, preschools, elementary schools, high schools, and social service agencies serving primarily low-income families and children.
- We provide training, curricula, and children's books.
- These partnerships reach families where they are already are and through people they trust, eliminating barriers to literacy resources and creating shared responsibility for our children's language and literacy development.

### Motivate children to read by providing them with fun literacy activities

- In childcare centers, preschools, and elementary schools, we provide thousands of children with books that they choose themselves from a large selection of books at multiple reading events each year.
- We involve volunteers from the community in making books come alive for children, planting the seeds that inspire children to follow their dreams.



### Build home libraries with developmentally- and culturally-appropriate books

- We provide new children's books as part of all our programming.
- We collect, sort, and place donated children's books into the hands of children in medical clinics, community outreach events, children's shelters, faith based organizations, and libraries in economically disadvantaged areas.
- We provide access to books so our community's poorest children have the opportunity to become literate.

## Our Programs

## The Results

**Reach Out and Read** partners with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together.



**Reading Is Fundamental** motivates children and families to read together through book ownership, motivational activities, and family involvement in children's reading.

**Parent BookClubs** help parents gain awareness of their roles as their children's first and most important teacher, plus the confidence, motivation, and skills necessary to share books with their children on a regular basis.



**ReBook** places donated children's books into the hands of children in medical clinics, community outreach events, children's shelters, faith based organizations, and libraries in economically disadvantaged areas.

**Read-A-Thon** inspires and motivates children to read while encouraging community service.

In Fiscal Year 2012, we reached over **40,000** children through our literacy programs and distributed over **120,000** books to children during their visits to the doctor, in childcare centers, schools, children's shelters and through our partners.

*"This is the most wonderful thing I do in pediatrics. Second to the immunizations and protection from disease, this is a game changer for our families. I give nightly thanks that I am allowed to participate in such a wonderful program."*

Pediatrician, Children's Wellness Center

*"We went from a group of parents who were nervous about becoming the storyteller in their family to becoming the leader/teacher in their family. Parents became confident, creative, and energetic about reading their books to their children."*

Parent Support Specialist, BookClub at Wooten Elementary School

*"Many of the students tell me that they still have their Reading is Fundamental books from last year. They remembered "flying" on the cardboard airplane last year. I asked each class if they had been reading the books they received and most of the students said yes. They loved them!"*

Debbie Shaffer, Librarian  
Dawson Elementary

## Our Partners

One of BookSpring's strategies is collaboration with others to improve children's access to literacy opportunities – **we reach families where they are and through people they trust**. This highly efficient and effective model enables us to reach a critical mass of children to help close the early literacy gap in our community. Below is a partial list of our partners:

A Community for Education  
Any Baby Can  
Austin ISD  
Austin Public Library  
AVANCE  
Child Inc.  
Communities In Schools  
CommUnityCare Health Clinics  
Junior League of Austin  
Lone Star Circle of Care

Mainspring Schools  
People's Community Clinic  
Reach Out and Read  
Reading Is Fundamental  
SafePlace  
Seton Community Health Centers  
Travis County Children FIRST/Healthy Families  
Trinity Child Development Centers  
United Way Success By 6