

May 27, 2026



## Community Health Task Force Newsletter: Spring 2026

### **A CATCH grant Thank you!**

KY submitted 2 CATCH applications, both from UK. Thank you! The funded project was Empowering Young Parents to Prevent Obesity from UK faculty member Maddie Herbert, MD, FAAP. It focuses on infant nutrition education for young parents, using text messaging. Congratulations!!

Although not funded this round they were very strong applications and all their hard work and dedication to their community is greatly appreciated! The next round of applications opens in November and due January 2027. Please reach out to our KY CATCH facilitators Stephanie and Brit for any questions!

<https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy/community-health-and-advocacy/community-access-to-child-health/catch-planning-implementation-and-residentgrants/?srsltid=AfmBOopjltrD2a1-npobLr568uFVqFCdkolwihMGyPr3zdi51nO2u3sf>

### **Early Childhood Resources!**

This resource is a set of brief training videos for healthcare providers who talk with families about child development and kindergarten readiness. It gives providers practical talking points, tips, and family resources they can use in those conversations. These videos are for informational purposes only and do not offer CME.

Healthcare Providers are often a family's first resource for information about their child. They can offer families important tips and ideas for supporting their child's learning and development at home. *In these brief training videos, providers can find resources and talking points for conversations with families around key areas: understanding developmental milestones and increasing readiness for kindergarten.*

<https://metrounitedway.org/healthcare-provider-resources/>

### **Reach Out and Read refresher! [www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org)**

Many of us participate in Reach Out and Read but may not know much about it. Others may want to start! We still have a way to go to reach every child in KY who would benefit from ROR.

The first site in Kentucky started at the Family Care Center in Lexington in the late 1990s. Donna Grigsby, MD, FAAP at UK started as the state Reach Out and Read medical director in 2007 and continues, with great passion, to support us in this work.

Our new Program Manager is Lee Ann Gabbard, and she would love to connect and answer any questions you have. [Leeann.gabbard@uky.edu](mailto:Leeann.gabbard@uky.edu) 859-797-2202

### **Watch these 2 very brief videos and share with your colleagues!**

[Dr. Mary Ann Woodruff How Reach Out and Read Transformed My Practice 1 minute 44 seconds](#)

[Reach Out and Read as a Partner in Health Care - YouTube Dr. Ruby Day 5 minutes](#)



### **Standard Impact Numbers**



### **Population Served**



### ***A bit more about Reach Out and Read from the national office staff:*** [www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org)

Vision: A world where every child has the relationships essential to learn and thrive.

Mission: Strengthen all families with young children through guidance from medical clinicians about nurturing relationships through shared reading.

- **Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based program backed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.**
- **Independent, peer-reviewed research shows that parents who participate in Reach Out and Read are 2.5 times more likely to read with their children.**
- **Families report more positive feelings about their experience with clinicians and are more likely to attend well-child visits.**

- **Our network includes more than 39,000 medical providers and 6,500 participating sites in all 50 U.S. states.**
- **In FY24, we served 4.6 million children and provided 7.7 million books at 9.3 million well-child visits.**
- **We serve families of all backgrounds. More than 60 percent of the children we serve are Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. Nearly 70 percent of the children we serve are from low-income families.**
- **Our model has the potential to reach 90 percent of all children in the United States through well-child visits, beginning at birth.**
- **When books authentically mirror their lives, young children feel a sense of belonging, which is vital for healthy physical, social, and emotional development.**
- **Families are more likely to read regularly to their children when they have access to a collection of books at home that embrace their culture, language, and identity.**

Please contact Brit Anderson [brit.anderson@louisville.edu](mailto:brit.anderson@louisville.edu) or Stephanie Stockburger [stephanie.stockburger@uky.edu](mailto:stephanie.stockburger@uky.edu) for more information about the KY AAP Community Health Task Force or CATCH grants or if you have resources, you would like us to highlight in our next newsletter!