

# New Book Donation Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in supporting our early learning program. Donations of new books are a great help to our partner clinics and to Reach Out and Read Minnesota as an organization. We know that a good book can change a child's life!

Below, we have listed a few guidelines to make sure that we're getting the right books to the right places and that the process is as smooth as possible.

- If possible, **please notify Reach Out and Read MN staff before starting your book drive.** That way we can work together to make a plan to get the best, and most appropriate books to a clinic that has a need. Please reach out to our Program Manager, Janice Haines at [Janice@reachoutandreadmn.org](mailto:Janice@reachoutandreadmn.org) about your plans or any questions you may have.
- In most cases, Reach Out and Read MN staff is unable to pick-up outside donations. **We ask that the donor arrange for the transportation of books** to either one or more of our partner clinics (as approved by Reach Out and Read MN staff) or to our book storage facility in Richfield.
- We ask that donors provide us with **a list of titles and quantities of books** once they have been collected. This helps us make sure that the books are appropriate for our program and that they go to the most appropriate clinic in our network. If possible, please also provide us with a receipt of purchase from the vendor, a total receiptable value of the purchase, or an approximate value per book price, as this is necessary for our tax records.

## Book Guidelines

- For our core program, we only accept **new books.**
- All books should be appropriate for children **ages 0 to 5 years.**
- We cannot accept books that contain: violence, unhealthy habits, religious or otherwise inappropriate themes.
- Our partner clinics generally prefer books that do not contain commercial characters or commercial themes, as well as books made from sturdier, high quality materials, rather than thin plastic covers. For example, a [Guess How Much I Love You](#) board book would be a great choice. [This copy](#) of a paperback Disney Minnie Mouse book would not be.

## What We Need

- Our **greatest need is for books for children ages 0-2 years.** This most often includes board books and fabric books.
- Books that feature **diverse characters, images, and stories,** as well as **bilingual books** are most often in high demand. High need languages in our region usually include Spanish, Somali, and Hmong, but needs vary by clinic.

### Where to Get Started:

Bulk book retailers often have the greatest per dollar value. A few of our recommended partners include: [All About Books](#), [Books4School](#), [Star Bright Books](#), and [Scholastic](#). We also encourage you to support your local children's book store. If using Amazon, we encourage you to use the [Amazon Smile](#) function and to select Reach Out and Read Minnesota as your beneficiary charity.

Crowdfunding platforms, such as [GoFundMe](#) can be a useful tool for gathering funds to buy books. One option is to provide a link to the website you intend to purchase books from, then ask your donors to leave the titles of the books they would like to "purchase" as a note in their donation.

We ask that you share our guidelines with anyone who may be purchasing books for this donation.

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Thank you!  
Please reach out to us with any questions.

Janice Haines, Program Manager: [janice@reachoutandreadmn.org](mailto:janice@reachoutandreadmn.org)

Liam Mackin, Communications and Development Coordinator:  
[liam@reachoutandreadmn.org](mailto:liam@reachoutandreadmn.org)