

# Literacy Impacts Families - Outreach

Parents who view reading as a source of entertainment are more likely to have children who enjoy reading. Focusing on the pleasure of sharing time together with print is crucial to building positive attitudes which will engage both parent and child with print more often.

Weigel, D.J., Martin, S. & Bennett, K., 2006



The READ Saskatoon Good Book Bins Project is based on the successful 'Blue Boxes for Books' program in Ontario and was launched in 2008 in ten locations. Bins are filled with gently used children's books and placed in community locations where parents and children spend time waiting together (i.e.: health or community centres). Families are encouraged to choose books to share together at the location, take a book home to keep, or replace it the next time they visit. Currently, 16 bins are in use across Saskatoon, with READ Saskatoon replenishing supplies during regular site visits. This program has recently been adopted in Prince Albert in two locations.



An evaluation was conducted that involved an examination of written evaluations from partner locations, site visits, conversations with front line staff, and a document review.

1. Increased promotion of reading and book-sharing between adults and children
  - Over 80% of Good Book Bin locations were actively involved in promoting family book-sharing at their locations
2. Increased literacy opportunities available within the community
  - Almost 60% of locations reported that families accessed other literacy information (i.e.: family program brochures & library schedules), besides children’s books provided in the bins.
3. Increased access to free books within community settings
  - 86% of locations reported that the books were being used while visiting their locations.
4. Increased community involvement, capacity, and awareness about the value of family literacy
  - Due to the visibility of READ Saskatoon Good Book Bins, community donations of books have increased.

They (book bins) are awesome—our families really enjoy them and are pleasantly surprised that their child can take a book home.

Health Clinic

We appreciate the book bin in our centre. It is a great asset to our community.

Tenant Association

READ Saskatoon's Accountability Project aims to revise and fine-tune an accountability framework which assures READ Saskatoon is effectively and efficiently serving local and provincial needs through the appropriate use of available resources. Tools for outcome-based evaluation will be designed and piloted to measure the success, challenges and procedures of literacy projects and programs. By developing and implementing quality standards for evaluation, READ Saskatoon’s Family Literacy, Adult Literacy and agency activities will be methodically measured to ensure standards of excellence remain in place and guide future directions of READ Saskatoon's Family and Adult Literacy projects and programs.