

Dear Read to Me Meeting Participant,



As you know, this year’s Read to Me meeting is all about “diving in” to outreach and partnerships. Your RTM Project Coordinators have a great lineup of guest presenters to help you take early literacy programming to greater depths: **Soroj Ghoting** will demonstrate how to integrate the six early literacy skills into your regular programming and the library environment; **Jenny Fisk** will help you gain a deeper understanding of kindergarten readiness; **Stan Burton** will talk about potential Head Start partnerships; and **Dr. Roger Stewart** will help all of us *finally* understand what a “measurable outcome” is! We will also showcase best practices in daycare outreach, bilingual programming and literacy stations. Each of these experiences is designed to help you achieve one outcome: *To develop a plan of action that helps your library meet the needs of your “underserved” community, no matter where you are on the learning continuum.*

In order to prepare for this adventure, we are asking each participant to complete a short “homework” assignment before the meeting. **Please write or type on this sheet and bring it with you on March 11.**

1) Read the following statements and rate your library using the scale provided:

0 = have not begun 1 = just starting 2 = on our way 3 = accomplished, but continuing to improve

Activity	Where we are now
We regularly assess the needs of various target audiences, and actively identify emerging trends and emerging audiences.	
We have developed partnerships with others in the community, and have established mutually beneficial relationships that utilize resources and help meet identified needs.	
We regularly monitor current best practices in library programming and literacy, as identified by professional organizations and leaders in the field.	
We have initiated activities that better address the needs of our Spanish-speaking and/or Limited English Proficient (LEP) communities.	
We use multiple strategies to market the library’s resources, programs, and successes that are relevant to the needs and interests of multiple audiences. (Strategies: Up-to-date website, postcards, flyers, branding, newsletters...) (Audiences: Target populations, community partners, stakeholders, schools, sponsors...)	
We actively seek funding and/or library materials from a variety of sources, including our Board of Trustees, local sponsors, and state/federal agencies or grant opportunities.	

2) Please read “A Closer Look at Needs Assessment Statements,” which can be accessed at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/read-to-me-resources>

3) Bring some data:

Think about areas in which you want to strengthen outreach programming or programming for underserved populations at your library. You probably already have a project in mind, but if not, use the information from the rating scale above to choose a focus area. Using the Needs Assessment article as a reference, do an **Information Scan** to collect some data and jot it down on the back. You don’t need to spend a great deal of time on this—IRI scores, census data, Free and Reduced Lunch rates, etc.

only take a few minutes to access. You will be using this information at the March 11-12 meeting. You may work with a buddy. 😊

Please feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

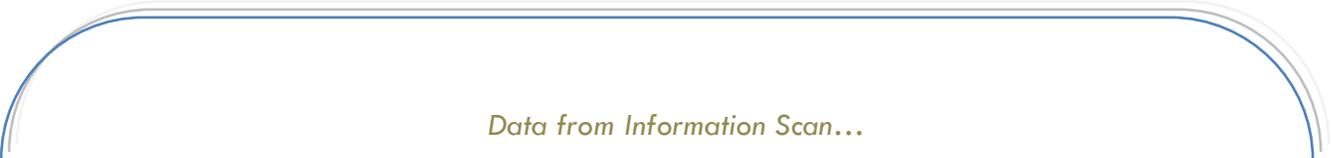
Your Read to Me Project Coordinators,

Stephanie, Staci and Erica

Stephanie.bailey-white@libraries.idaho.gov

Staci.shaw@libraries.idaho.gov

Erica.compton@libraries.idaho.gov



Data from Information Scan...