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READ LIBERIA ACTIVITY

PARENT PEER INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS



Read Liberia Activity

Peer Education Participant Guide

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PREFACE

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Read Liberia Activity is a five-year (2017-2022) early grade reading (EGR) activity funded by USAID and implemented by RTI International in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE). Read Liberia seeks to improve EGR skills of Liberian students in grades one and two (G1 and G2) and to pilot support for emergent literacy skills of students in kindergarten (KG). Read Liberia works in 640 public primary school communities in six targeted counties: Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, and Nimba. The KG pilot is in 60 of these schools across the six counties. The Activity's goal is to ensure that by the end of two years of schooling, students G2 can read grade-level text with fluency and comprehension and KG students' oral vocabulary for emergent literacy is improved.

This guide is a Social and Behavior Change (SBC) tool developed to be used by parents talking to parents about the benefits and importance of early grade reading. It was developed under the USAID Read Liberia Activity under contract number AID-669-C-17-00003 with the support of USAID and the Government of Liberia's Ministry of Education.

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The content of the guide was developed with the assistance of a number of contributors including parents of children in the early grades who participated in research, focus groups, and pre-testing the guide. Their generous insights helped to refine this guide. We would like to thank Felicia Sackey Doe Sumah, Assistant Minister of Basic and Secondary Education; Othello Nimley, Assistant Minister for Student Personnel Services; Charsley Kumbly, Director of Community Engagement, PTA, and Dropout Prevention; and the Ministry of Education's Community Engagement Division.

Our sincere thanks to all of them, and to those who will use this guide to encourage early grade reading.

INTRODUCTION

These instructions and the pictures in this guide are your tools to talk to parents about helping their child read. Use the pictures with groups of parents organized by social mobilizers, community organizations, or NGOs to discuss simple ways they can help their children learn to read.

The information on the next page summarizes how to use the pictures. The pictures and the information to share with parents about each picture are included in this guide. Remember to use the pictures when you talk to parent groups.

You are ready to start talking to parents about early grade reading. Your efforts will help boys and girls in your community succeed in school. Good Luck!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONDUCTING A PEER GROUP ON EARLY GRADE READING USING THE PICTURES

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Show the first picture (Picture # 1) to the group. **Make sure everyone can see the picture.**
3. Ask the questions written on the back of each picture. Let the group discuss. **Give everyone a chance to talk.**
4. When everyone is finished, read the message behind the picture.
5. Use the additional points to cover with parents for discussing the message in more detail.
6. Ask if anyone wants to comment or if they have questions.
7. Move to picture # 2 and follow steps 1 - 6.
8. Continue moving through each picture until you finish picture # 8.
9. Thank everyone for coming and ask them to try one of the steps to help their children read.

TIPS FOR A GOOD PRESENTATION

1. **Practice. Practice. Practice.** Be prepared before you conduct your first group. Try practicing using the pictures with family or friends before you conduct a group discussion.
2. Allow parents in the group to talk. Do not control the discussion. The goal is to have a discussion. Do not lecture.
3. If there has been a long discussion, try to bring the parents back to the main message of the picture and move the discussion to the next picture.