


SCREENING FOR EMERGENT LITERACY DURING WELL VISITS

The Role of Pediatricians

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends promoting literacy during primary care visits and emphasizes the role pediatricians play in supporting school readiness. Pediatricians are well positioned to observe and assess emergent literacy skills in young children—particularly those approaching their first year of school. Despite this, literacy assessments are not yet well integrated into most pediatric settings, and their use remains limited.



What is “The Reading House”?



The Reading House (TRH) is a 14-page illustrative children’s book designed to assess emergent literacy skills in 3- and 4-year-olds during routine wellness visits. Pediatricians read the book with children and use a set of prompts and questions as they go, allowing them to informally observe the child’s literacy development in a fun and interactive way.

How Does It Work?

Pediatricians use scripted prompts to guide interaction as they read together.

For example:

- When viewing a garden filled with letters, the pediatrician might ask: *“Can you name as many letters as you know?”*
- When viewing a playroom scene, they might ask: *“Which toys on this page rhyme with the word ‘block’?”*

For more information, visit improvingliteracy.org.



The research reported here is funded by a grant to the National Center on Improving Literacy from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, in partnership with the Office of Special Education Programs (Award #: H283D210004). The opinions or policies expressed are those of the authors and do not represent views of OESE, OSEP, or the U.S. Department of Education. You should not assume endorsement by the Federal government. Copyright © 2024 National Center on Improving Literacy.