

Reach Out and Read Inland Empire Counts!

by **Delesa Barnes, Reach Out & Read- Inland Empire Program Coordinator**

The extensive presence of [Reach Out and Read](#) (ROR) across the United States presents an unique opportunity to give children a success foundation on a large scale. Pediatricians are a trusted-source with the potential to engage 90-91% of all U.S. children during [well-child visits](#). [Reach Out and Read Inland Empire](#) (RORIE) plays a crucial role as part of the national network of 29 regional affiliates, over 33,000 medical providers, and 6,000 participating sites spanning all 50 states. Our Inland Empire affiliate proudly operates as a program of the [American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 2](#) in both San Bernardino and Riverside counties, serving just over 100 pediatric sites. Supporting numerous book distributions, mass resource disbursement, onboarding newly approved clinics, and promoting collaborative efforts amongst organizations covering more than 27,000 sq. miles of territory benefits everyone involved. Providers are reporting feeling more confident in their ability to provide quality anticipatory guidance to patients, excited to explore new literacy concepts for children with their staff, and have signaled towards operating with higher [fidelity to the ROR program](#) model-increasing equity of access for Inland Empire families.



[Incorporating math concepts](#) into existing ROR program models is a seamless [progression in reading](#) that can provide a strong foundation in mathematics, ultimately increasing school readiness by the age of 5. ROR counts [provides clinics an introduction to key math concepts](#) (counting the number of objects on a page, discussing the size/shape of characters/objects, sequencing, etc) that can make storytime fun and engaging while making a difference in the “[math gap](#)”. At [RORIE](#), a world where every child is read to every day is possible with your unwavering support.

Until next time, be well and continue to **Reach Out & Read- Inland Empire**.