

Experiencing the Reach Out & Read National Leadership Conference

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



Being a part of the Reach Out and Read (ROR) network means gaining access to a community of like-minded professionals, all with a very similar mission in mind- giving young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together. The National Leadership conference in Madison, Wisconsin brought together affiliates and partners for the first time in person since the pandemic began and was full of energy and enthusiasm for the three days to come. In those days affiliate leaders dug deep into [key elements of the ROR model](#), [supporting diverse families in your clinics](#), [early relational health](#), and experienced a behind-the-scenes tour of a wonderfully family-owned book vendor ([Interstate Books 4 School](#)). Saying that books were a major theme of the conference would be an understatement! Our existing vendors ([All About Books](#) & [Scholastic](#)) showcased new books and catalogs, Scholastic celebrated *I Am Enough* by Joyce Byers, and new books like *I Love You Like Sunshine* by Marian Glusman, MD & Marta Killner, MD were generously given to share with our sites upon our return.

The coming months will bring a plethora of new things to share with you as we start to make new connections. New books, new resources, and new opportunities to keep you engaged and advocating for the ROR mission. Stay connected through the new [ROR eNewsletter](#) that will be launching on November 15, Facebook, and Instagram. Until next time, take care and continue to **Reach Out & Read- Inland Empire**.

