



Reading Is
Fundamental

BOOKS FOR OWNERSHIP

IGNITING POSSIBILITIES

What Is Books for Ownership?

Books for Ownership, RIF's flagship reading program, enables children to select new, age-appropriate books to take home and own and is supported by resources for parents, educators, and local literacy advocates to create a continuous focus on reading. With only 1 in 300 low-income children owning a book, this program enables participating children to select books to take home and own for the first time and relies on a simple yet fundamental truth, if you allow children choice and access, they will be more engaged. Over 40 million children nationwide have had the opportunity to experience the power and excitement of this program.

CREATING A CULTURE OF LITERACY

How Does Books for Ownership Work?

The program's approach to reading is anchored by three key tenets proven to create greater motivation to read: access, choice, and engagement, and is designed to enable local communities to implement in ways that address the needs of the children they serve.

Choice: Children are given the opportunity to choose books to own. RIF curates high-quality books by a wide range of authors covering diverse topics, ensuring children can relate to the characters and experiences in the book.

Access: RIF builds a literacy ecosystem around these books through Literacy Central, RIF's free digital platform full of thousands of resources designed to extend the reading experience beyond the book with activities, games, lesson plans, and much more.

Engagement: Resources for parents, educators, and community supporters are available through Literacy Network, an online destination designed to build capacity for these groups and support them in becoming reading champions that continuously model the importance of reading.



CONTINUALLY INNOVATING

What Is New With the Books for Ownership Program?

RIF is committed to continually evaluating its programs, including Books for Ownership, and ensuring they meet the needs and changing demands of children and evolving literacy practices. Two of the newest Books for Ownership Program elements integrate the needs of digital learners by providing greater access to resources as well as providing enhanced, actionable support to our community partners.

Integrated Book Resources on Literacy Central

RIF invites its partners who participate in Books for Ownership to extend the book experience throughout the year with free digital resources found on Literacy Central. Literacy Central is an online destination for teachers, parents, and literacy volunteers with thousands of resources tied to the books children love including lesson plans, activities, games, videos, and more. This is also a great source to find complementary motivational activities to integrate into the book celebration events. Visit Literacy Central at rif.org/literacy-central.

Support through Literacy Network

RIF offers Literacy Network, a one-stop shop for all your Books for Ownership needs and support. This online destination provides information, tools, and resources to effectively implement the program along with a digital community to share ideas and best practices. Literacy Network at rif.org/literacy-network provides:

- Steps to get started
- Comprehensive Implementation Planning Guide
- Customizable resources to enhance book celebration events
- Tips on effectively integrating Literacy Central into your program
- Quarterly reading campaigns with easy to implement supporting resources enabling each of our partners to implement within their school, community center, or other location to encourage a continuous focus on reading

About the Program

Books for Ownership has been offered since RIF's founding in 1966.

Purpose: Give children opportunity to own books, motivate children to read, and encourage a culture of literacy.

Goal: Increase reading frequency, motivation, enjoyment, and confidence among all participants.

Cost: \$3 per book.

RIF offers a matching grant at various times throughout the year to double the program's impact.



DEMONSTRATED IMPACT

Grounded in Research

RIF is committed to creating programs that demonstrate measurable impact. Our research* validates the impact of the program model:

- Improves children's reading performance
- Supports children in learning
- Causes children to read more and for longer lengths of time
- Produces improved attitudes toward reading and learning

“Giving us books is a good thing and you should keep on doing it because it has given kids a chance to read. I thank you for giving books because it can really change somebody's life knowing that someone cares.”

- Ashley / Brooklyn, NY



*Learning Point Associates: Children's Access to Print Material and Education-Related Outcomes: Findings from a Meta-Analytic Review, August 2010

To learn more about RIF's Books for Ownership program,
visit rif.org/literacy-network/programs
or contact us at literacynetwork@rif.org.



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