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READING ALOUD HELPS CHILDREN COPE WITH TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

LITERACY ORGANIZATION ISSUES DOCTOR-RECOMMENDED READING LIST

PHILADELPHIA, PA -- Reach Out and Read Greater Philadelphia (RORGP), the nonprofit pediatric early literacy organization, has issued a list of books that can help young children cope with today's tough economic times. The reading list, "Children's Books for Families in Tough Economic Times" was developed by Reach Out and Read doctors. It deals with issues such as job loss and losing a home, and helps model the importance of resiliency and resourcefulness.

"Hiding the truth from children is rarely a good idea. Reading aloud is a great way to talk about financial difficulties in age-appropriate ways," said Dr. Kristen Kucharczuk, Associate Medical Director of Reach Out and Read Greater Philadelphia. "Reading aloud can also help parents cope: it gives us a chance to slow down and literally embrace the things that are most precious to us – our children."

Reading aloud is often cited as a top strategy for helping children deal with difficult situations. It helps establish and reinforce routines, which are crucial to babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, and provides the attention and affection that can help them feel safe.

RORGP's doctor-recommended "Children's Books for Families in Tough Economic Times" is available at http://reachoutandread.org/about_tips.html and includes:

- "Finding a Job for Daddy" by Evelyn Maslac (ages 4-8)
Times are tough when Daddy loses his job.
- "A Chair for My Mother" by Vera B. Williams (ages 3-8)
A fire destroys the home of a family living on the edge.
- "Meet Kit: An American Girl" (ages 7-12)
It's the 1930's and Kit's family is affected by the Great Depression.
- "Ramona and Her Father" by Beverly Cleary (ages 4-8)
Ramona's dad has lost his job, her mother is working full-time now, and things are not the same anymore.



- “Trading Places” by Claudia Mills (ages 9-12)
When twins Amy and Todd tackle a project, they learn to cope with friendship issues and their father’s unemployment.

Dr. Kristen Kucharczuk, RORGP’s Associate Medical Director, is a pediatrician at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and mother of two young children. She is available to discuss the RORGP reading list and the importance of reading aloud.

About Reach Out and Read Greater Philadelphia

Targeting children most at risk – children ages 6 months to 5 years living in poverty -- Reach Out and Read Greater Philadelphia doctors and nurses give books to their youngest low-income patients while advising their parents about the importance of reading. By building on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers, RORGP helps families and communities promote early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success in reading. For more, visit www.rorgp.org.

Reach Out and Read Greater Philadelphia is affiliated with Reach Out and Read, Inc., a national, nonprofit organization that has earned the highest 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator four years in a row. This year, Reach Out and Read is celebrating its 20th Anniversary of placing books in the hands and homes of children in need. Since it was founded in Boston in 1989, more than 50,000 doctors and nurses have been trained in the ROR model, and they have distributed more than 20 million brand-new books to children nationwide.

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