



READING
rockets
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**A Toolkit
for Librarians**

www.ReadingRockets.org

TOOLKIT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Dear Librarian:

Public and school libraries have a long history of supporting children's emerging literacy. Libraries also have the resources to support adult and family literacy efforts, which, of course, have a lasting impact on children.

The American Library Association (ALA) is pleased to have a partnership with a new program that brings together information on learning to read and supports it with the stuff of which libraries are made: books and information resources. This project is called Reading Rockets.

Reading Rockets is a multimedia project dedicated to helping young children learn to read and giving adults who live and work with them the information they need to create lifelong learners. The components of this unique project, funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Education, include a five-part PBS series (a full set of videos has been sent to all state library agencies) and a Web site (www.ReadingRockets.org) with current information for teachers, parents, and caregivers; interviews with children's book creators; and booklists. And Reading Rockets recently introduced a separate bilingual site in Spanish and English (www.ColorinColorado.org), featuring graphics by David Diaz. To help librarians use all this information in their communities, Reading Rockets now offers you this toolkit.

We urge you to use this toolkit, find out more about this fascinating project, and join other Reading Rockets partners in your community. In addition to the ALA, partners include the International Reading Association, the National Center for Family Literacy, and many more.

For additional information or if you would like to share your Reading Rockets experience with other librarians, e-mail info@ReadingRockets.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Malore L. Brown".

Malore Brown, Executive Director
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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie A. Walker".

Julie Walker, Executive Director
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FOREWORD

Learning to read is more like rocket science than we once thought! Reading Rockets is a literacy initiative that looks at how young children learn to read, why so many children struggle, and what adults who live and work with children can do to help. It really does take a village to get and keep kids reading — and libraries are a crucial part of a supportive learning community.

WETA is pleased to provide you with the Reading Rockets Toolkit for Librarians. You will find a range of resources to use for workshops in the library and for outreach activities in the community, with established partners or with new ones. The toolkit includes video clips for parent and staff workshops, a bilingual family guide in Spanish and English, a teachers' and a viewers' guide, and some great resources from www.ReadingRockets.org, www.pbs.org/launchingreaders, and www.ColorinColorado.org — our new bilingual Web site for families whose first language is Spanish.

Reading Rockets has collaborated with the Association for Library Services to Children and the Association of School Librarians of the American Library Association on this toolkit. We hope these resources can be easily integrated into your existing workshops for parents and other caregivers, as a component of in-service training activities, and with your outreach activities. We hope these materials will enrich your library's services to children and families and provide an ongoing resource for your own professional development.

Several libraries are piloting Reading Rockets programs and can serve as a resource for you. They'd be happy to share their experience on how they use these materials. You can find out how to reach them in Section 2 of this toolkit.

Be sure to check out "Ordering Additional Reading Rockets Materials" on page 9 to find out how to order hard copies of this toolkit as well as any Reading Rockets videos you may wish to add to your library collection.

Good luck with Reading Rockets!

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