

READ@HOME

Materials Guidance



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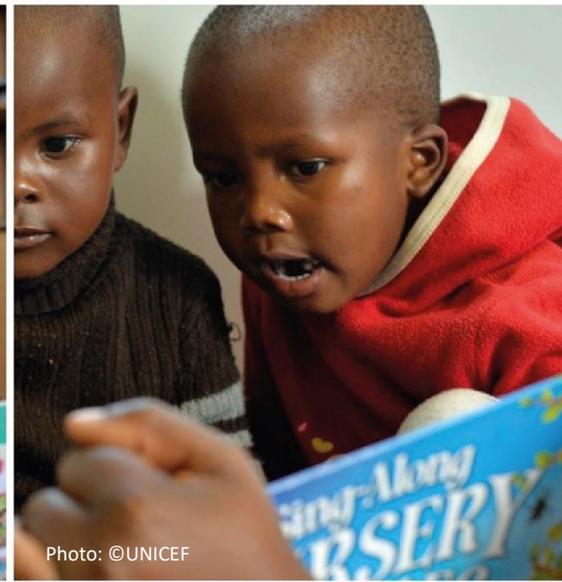
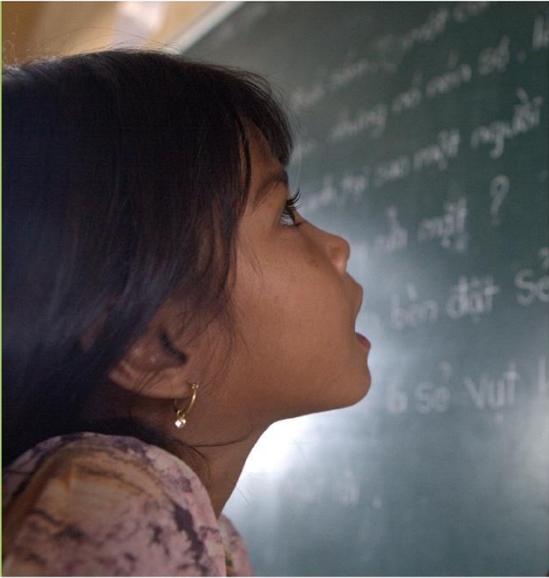


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ACRONYMS

ASER	Annual Status of Education Report
CC	Creative Commons
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
DFID	Department for International Development of the United Kingdom
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EGRA	Early Grade Reading Assessment
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
gsm	grams per square meter
IAI	Interactive Audio Instruction
IVR	Interactive Voice Recording
mm	millimeters
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
PASEC	Programme d'analyse des systèmes éducatifs de la confemen
REACH	Results in Education for All Children
SMS	Short Message Service
TV	Television
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

The purpose of this manual is to provide practical guidance on the identification and selection of quality children's reading materials for home use, and the identification or design of accompanying materials for caregivers to support children's learning. The manual is part of the Read@Home initiative, which aims to deliver reading and learning materials to hard-to-reach homes. It starts with an introductory section which explains the importance of reading at home and exposes the evidence base, followed by practical step-by-step guidance on how to identify and select quality age-appropriate reading materials; how to find, design and distribute accompanying guidance for caregivers; and how to monitor and evaluate book distribution efforts.



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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

THE READ@HOME INITIATIVE

The objective of Read@Home is to deliver reading and learning materials to hard-to-reach homes, as quickly and efficiently as possible, along with support for parents and other caregivers to engage with children's learning. Increasing reading in the home is a key component of system-building that will help countries address *learning poverty*,^A develop more effective and equitable education systems *and* be resilient in the face of future shocks. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to make the home a supportive environment for learning was already known. Too many children have little or no experience reading at home, which limits their language development and acquisition of pre-reading skills, in turn, making the transition to school-based reading instruction very challenging. Once children arrive in school, many low- and middle-income countries struggle to provide them with sufficient instructional time. Many also struggle to promote effective and inclusive teaching approaches and to provide teacher support to ensure learning for all. All of this impacts the quality of instruction children receive.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance and potential of the home learning environment to complement school-based learning and address learning inequality. The pandemic has also exposed the digital and accessibility divide, which disproportionately impacts poor countries and poor communities within countries, worsening the learning inequalities that were already present before the pandemic. Moving forward, education systems need to embrace the idea that learning should be able to occur for everyone, everywhere. Having books at home is a low-tech first step in supporting learning happening in a home setting, especially in the most marginalized communities.

Read@Home targets those families that are unlikely to be reached with the remote learning approaches being rolled out by ministries of education: parents with low literacy levels and families with no internet, no smart phones, but possibly some access to feature phones, radio, and/or TV. The effort will align with and complement governments' distance learning efforts where possible, to ensure a wrap-around approach to learning at home. Crucially, however, it will also be designed to stand alone for families that cannot access government-managed or technology-enabled efforts. Beyond the pandemic, Read@Home will continue to play a key role in ensuring that the learning that occurs in schools is reinforced and supplemented at home, and vice versa.

This manual is intended to support country-efforts to source and select quality reading and learning materials for children and accompanying materials for parents/caregivers to support children's learning.

^A Learning poverty means being unable to read and understand a simple text by age 10.

GLOBAL RESEARCH ON BOOKS AND READING

Research from around the world shows that literacy skills are linked with children's experiences with language and print from birth.¹ Before formal schooling starts (around age six in most countries), verbal interactions between adults and children are essential. Activities such as singing to children, telling them stories and rhymes, and asking questions form the foundation for language development. Studies have found that the number of words children know before they are five years old is predictive of later success and that children who begin school knowing more words are likely to develop into better readers and have stronger comprehension skills.² Beyond children's early years, children need support and engagement to foster language development and access to storybooks at home to foster love for reading, which is critical to practicing and perfecting the skill. Reading is an essential skill that unlocks the door to learning in every other area; children need to learn to read, before they can read to learn.

Studies consistently demonstrate that the home literacy environment, and particularly the quantity and quality of talking, interacting, and reading with a child during the early years, are strongly associated with language and cognitive development, school readiness and academic performance.³ Providing children access to storybooks and time to engage in daily independent reading, including a variety of genres and levels of difficulty roughly matched to their interests and abilities, has been directly tied to their gaining better vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills.⁴ A recent study covering families in 35 countries of varying income levels⁵ found that having at least one children's book at home almost doubled the likelihood of the child being on track in literacy and numeracy.^B

During a child's early years, regularly reading with parents is associated with better vocabulary, phonological awareness, and print and letter knowledge.⁶ Children who are read to multiple times a day until they are five years old hear 1.4 million more words than children who are never read to.⁷ For older children, regularly reading at home is associated with higher reading comprehension, reading fluency, and receptive vocabulary.⁸ Reading with parents or caregivers has also been associated with higher interest in reading, as a strong home literacy environment shows children that reading is important and valued. While the number of storybooks in a household will vary, making time in the day for the whole family to sit and read together signals to children that this is an important task. Reading daily also expands reading *stamina*,⁹ that is, the ability to focus and independently read through a text without being distracted or distracting others. This stamina is what will aid children as they read increasingly complex texts as they get older, without teacher or caregiver support.

Children need to read (and to be read to) many, many storybooks to improve their reading skills. One study undertaken across 27 countries of varying incomes (ranging from rural China, Chile, South Africa and Philippines to Germany and the Netherlands) found that children growing up in homes with many books get 3 years more schooling than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents' education, occupation and class. This is as great an advantage as having university educated rather than unschooled parents, and twice the advantage of having a professional rather than an unskilled father. It holds equally in rich nations and in poor.¹⁰

^B Controlling for maternal education, wealth index quintile, children's age, and area of residence.

Researchers have found that volume and choice in reading materials makes a difference in building the skills necessary for reading fluently.¹¹ In other words, the more children read, the better they become at reading.

Finally, it is important for children to read diverse storybooks. First, storybooks in which children see themselves, their families, their cultures, and their contexts help them understand their culture and background, build identity, and find role models. Furthermore, when children identify with the characters, this connects them to storybooks on a deep level, allowing for better comprehension of the text.¹² Second, storybooks where people of different abilities, cultures, beliefs, and backgrounds are represented help children learn new ideas, see the world through the eyes of that character who is different from them, and consider their attitudes about those differences.^{13 14} Reading about diverse topics has been found to positively influence children's social and emotional learning competencies, apart from building cultural knowledge.^{15 16}

Unfortunately, the vast majority of families in low- and lower-middle-income countries do not have access to age-appropriate storybooks with engaging content, in languages children understand. In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 3 percent of households have more than two children's books at home, and just half of all parents report regularly engaging in cognitively stimulating activities with young children.¹⁷ While global investments are slowly starting to improve the availability of books worldwide, these efforts focus on increasing the number and quality of books, usually textbooks, in primary schools.

Box A. Selected examples of book distribution programs

- **SOUTH AFRICA.** In an impoverished peri-urban setting in South Africa, a program provided storybooks and training for caregivers (parents, grandparents, aunts, neighbors) on how to engage their children in book-sharing. A rigorous impact evaluation found that it improved book-sharing interactions (sensitivity, elaborations, reciprocity), children’s socio-emotional skills (higher pro-social behavior), and attention and vocabulary among children.
- **KENYA.** Building on the South African experience, in rural Kenya, the EMERGE program adapted culturally and linguistically appropriate children’s books from English and Swahili into Luo (a local language in Western Kenya). Families with young children received two books in each language (English, Swahili and Luo) along with a short training on techniques on how to read interactively with children, emphasizing how illiterate caregivers can use the books. A survey six weeks after book distribution found improvements in the vocabulary of children whose parents received the books and training. Just receiving the books – with or without the training – increased the probability of children being read to in the previous three days, while receiving books with training resulted in children being read to more frequently. The increase in reading frequency was biggest among illiterate caregivers, who used pictures to tell a story (Knauer, Jakiela, Ozier et al. 2019)
- **UNITED KINGDOM.** The Book Start Program in the UK reaches 2 million children ages 0–4 each year, encouraging parents to share books, stories, and rhymes with their children from as early an age as possible. Parents and children receive a “treasure pack” from childcare centers, libraries and community centers, which contain books and guidance on activities for home. Communication through community and national newspapers, magazines, and television and radio stations and regular community-based advocacy events help reinforce the approach. At school entry, children who participate in the program consistently perform higher on literacy and numeracy tests, and 68% of Book Start children listed looking at books as one of their favorite activities (compared to 21% for children not enrolled).
- **BRAZIL.** In Brazil, a program that encouraged parent-child book-sharing beyond preschool increased cognitive stimulation, improved the quality and quantity of reading interactions, and resulted in improved emergent literacy skills (e.g. working memory, receptive vocabulary).
- **MONGOLIA.** In Mongolia, a home-based school preparation program supports parents to engage in daily reading, singing, and play activities with their children. Parents are trained by local teachers and families borrow materials from a mobile toy and book library for 2 to 3 weeks at a time and then trade them in for new materials. A recent evaluation found that cognitive and noncognitive skills of the children enrolled in the program were significantly higher than those enrolled in existing alternative education programs, underlining the potential for a home-based model to improve school readiness among hard-to-reach populations.

Book flooding has also proven to be a successful strategy. When this strategy is well-designed and implemented, rigorous evaluations have found that it has an impact across countries, including in Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and several small island states in the Pacific. Though most of these evaluations are from the 1990s and programs were primarily delivered in schools, the resulting improvements show the potential for the physical presence of books to improve children’s outcomes:

- **SINGAPORE.** In Singapore, the Reading and English Acquisition Programme was scaled up nationally after an initial evaluation showed that children gained between half and a full year in reading and writing, compared to a control group.
- **SRI LANKA.** In Sri Lanka, the Books in Schools Project gave children shared access to storybooks for 15-20 minutes per day, in addition to textbooks and workbooks. After only six months of the intervention – and despite frequent teacher absences and some school closures due to the civil war – the children who had time with the storybooks demonstrated substantial progress compared to the control group (that had access to textbooks and workbooks only), with reading comprehension and vocabulary gains three times greater than the control group.

HOW CHILDREN LEARN TO READ

Learning to read is a complex task that involves several subskills, some of which are learned in a sequential manner (with overlaps and feedback loops). Oral language, or the skills and knowledge involved in listening and speaking, develops first. Then, children learn to hear and make word sounds, and learn the names of the letters or symbols. They then map letters to sounds and sounds to letters and understand that letters or symbols can be used to write any word. They discover how to blend those sounds together and start recognizing words. They then embark in reading connected text, increasing their fluency and “automaticity” (the capacity to recognize words with speed and without effort) and with practice they achieve reading with understanding. Throughout this process, children’s vocabulary and background knowledge of the world grows. Reading comprehension is the result of decoding (applying knowledge of the relationship between letters and sounds to correctly pronounce words) and vocabulary knowledge (critical to understand the words being read).

Children do not learn to read simply by repeating text, looking at books, or chanting out loud. Core skills like letter recognition, letter-sound relationships, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension must be explicitly taught. This explicit instruction is the focus of the first years of primary school. Teachers and reading instruction specialists need to understand the process of learning to read in great detail, but caregivers who select books for or read to children need only know a child’s rough reading skill level.

Parents and caregivers can complement the explicit reading instruction imparted at schools by providing practice on key skills. Reading, like any skill, requires plenty of practice. Having a range of reading materials that children can have read to them, and that they can later read themselves, roughly matched in difficulty to their current reading abilities (in number and length of words, complexity of sentences and ideas), and in a variety of genres, strengthens children’s literacy development. Books not only provide an opportunity to learn new things, but develop vocabulary, teach spelling and grammar, and encourage children to think critically. These skills are necessary to become a fluent reader.

All children can become fluent readers. Children progress through stages in learning to read from the time they are born. The process unfolds from the moment they are born, starting as children learn to speak and listen to oral language. Although language, culture, and instructional approach will influence these stages, research suggests that there are universal literacy processes, and that all children learn to read and write similarly across language and cultural contexts.¹⁸ However, since each child has a different pace of learning, the speed at which children progress through each reading stage varies.¹⁹ Regardless of the pace of progress, the home and the school environment can support the development of all children, respecting their pace of progress.

Despite individual variations in learning progress, all children need to have strong reading foundations by the time the curriculum shifts from *learning to read* to *reading to learn* (end of third grade in many countries). Without strong reading foundations, children will struggle and fall further behind. Although the progress children make as readers does not fit neatly into separate or discreet stages—the literacy skills children develop integrate and reinforce each other— the subskills they should acquire come in a rough sequence – and some subskills need to be mastered before others for learning to proceed. Therefore, progress in learning to read in languages with alphabetic writing systems can be organized as described in [Table A](#).

Table A. Overview of the stages of reading development

Stage	What skills children are learning in this stage?	Zone color	Teachers should focus on
Stage 0: Pre-Readers	Children are learning lots of spoken words and how to use them to communicate and describe their world.	Red	Building kids oral vocabulary by asking questions, extending their answers, and introducing more basic vocabulary words according to an explicit plan in daily instruction
	Children are learning to hear and make the sounds that make up words (at first without print). In contexts where they are exposed to print, they are also becoming aware of print and that text carries meaning.	Orange	Helping kids gain the ability to isolate, identify, and make the sounds that make up words, breaking up words to hear it “first sound” or “last sound”, rhyming, and changing first sounds in words to make new words: c-at, s-at, h-at, b-at, m-at, m-ay, h-ay, pl-ay, etc. (known as phonological and phonemic awareness)
Stage 1: Early Readers	Children are learning to map letters to sounds and sounds to letter. They are also learning letter names.	Yellow	Having kids draw letters, or use manipulables, to master their names, and beginning to teach the most basic sounds that letters make-starting with the most common vowels and consonants of short, basic words
	Children are learning to understand how words are made up of letters and letter can be used to write any word. They are also learning about spelling conventions and are practicing spelling words based on how they sound.	Green	Helping kids get the alphabetic principle: letters show the sounds of words, and all words can be written using letters
Stage 2: Independent Readers	Children are learning to recognize words and meaningful parts of words and roots	Blue	As kids practice to recognize easy words like “help” and “want” they can learn words like “helped” and “wanted” where “ed” makes it in the past. Teachers should only teach exception (try/tried) after lots of basics are easy for kids
	Children are learning to read and write progressively longer chains of words, phrases, and sentences smoothly and automatically.	Indigo	Helping kids read “harder” text as they move from sounding out to “automatically” recognizing words. Slowly introduce longer words, longer phrases and sentences, and more exceptions or hard patterns, paying attention to kids’ ability to read at the pace of normal speech (not by “sounding out”)
Stage 3: Fluent Readers	Children are learning to comprehend the meaning of text read. They are expanding their vocabularies and building background and world knowledge to read on their own. As they advance, children start to analyze texts critically, understand multiple points of view, apply the text and their background knowledge to infer or make a prediction on how the story will progress or its conclusion. They are also engaging with much wider genres and can read nonfiction texts on multiple related topics	Violet	Making meaning in whatever kids read. Whether with very basic sentences, or the progressively harder ones, kids need practice reflecting on the meaning of what they have read, and explaining it, and making inferences and connections to other ideas
All stages	Children are learning to love reading and read for both enjoyment and learning.	ALL COLORS!	Fun, pleasure, enjoyment, and positive experiences should pervade all aspects of learning to read. Kids can work hard, but they will do best if they derive satisfaction both from what they read and from the sense of accomplishment in being readers!

Source: Adapted from Chall 1983, pp. 10-24; Adams 1994; World Bank, forthcoming.

All children who learn to read independently will go through these stages of literacy and they benefit from having diverse sets of literacy materials with which to practice. Not all children will make progress through these stages in a linear fashion. Developing skills related to phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension is still necessary, but multisensory approaches (e.g. print, Braille, tactile and symbolic materials, sign language, oral expression) might be necessary for students to receive and communicate concepts. A more flexible approach may be needed for children who progress at a slower pace or benefit from a variety of approaches. For example, despite having trouble detecting rhymes, some children with intellectual or learning disabilities may still attain literacy skills.²⁰ Research has also shown that children with disabilities benefit from early identification and intervention.²¹ While it is recognized that cadres of multi-professional support necessary to identify and support the learning of children with disabilities might not be available in some settings, parents and community volunteers can provide support if given appropriate information, materials, and guidance.

PARENT AND CAREGIVER ROLES IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S LITERACY SKILLS

Children need role models to show them appropriate ways to behave and engage with the world. Parents and caregivers are the child's first teachers. When caregivers (including older siblings, grandparents and others in the household) read to and with younger children, encourage children to read, and create an environment in the home where reading and studying are valued, these messages are picked up and internalized by the child. Ensuring that parents recognize the important role they play in the future development of their child's love for reading and learning is essential.

In every country, children spend much more time out of school than in school, making it very important to build literacy skills in out-of-school contexts. In addition to being a fun way to build connections with children, research on parental engagement and the home environment points to great benefits for children whose parents support their academic development at home. The reading experiences of children at home and at school are different and complementary: while children's reading experiences at home tend to be conversational, reading experiences at school tend to be instructional.²² The active participation in the reading process (e.g. when children read themselves, ask or respond questions, etc.), which is often observed while reading at home, has been associated with increased vocabulary gains for those with limited vocabulary.²³

Family involvement is particularly critical in contexts where the quality of formal instruction and available instructional time are low, or where children have some type of disability. In many low- and middle-income country contexts, children do not learn how to read at school: in fact, before the COVID-19 pandemic, 53 percent of children age 10 in low- and middle-income countries could not read and understand a short-age appropriate text.²⁴ This is due to a variety of factors including teachers not being valued, well prepared or supported, limited instructional materials, and very low time-on-task.

Even parents and caregivers with low literacy skills can do many simple, fun, and engaging activities at home to support their children's literacy skills. As shown in Box A, programs in impoverished peri-urban settings in South Africa and in rural Kenya have achieved significant impacts by working with illiterate

caregivers. In fact, in Kenya the impact was biggest among illiterate caregivers. In these programs, parents use a technique called *dialogic reading*, by which they help the child tell the story by asking questions about the storybook and then evaluate the response, expand on it by rephrasing or adding information to it, and repeat the prompt to ensure that the children understand.²⁵

Key messages

In summary, the following key messages are important to share with parents and caregivers about their role in supporting children's reading skills:

- Children of all age, from babies to adolescents, benefit from parental and family engagement.
- All parents, even those with low literacy, can support their children's literacy.
- Reading at home reinforces and complements skills learned at school.
- Families should create an environment in the home where reading is valued and encourage children to read daily.
- Daily reading is critical to build fluency.
- All children, including children with disabilities, can be supported to read at home with multi-sensory approaches and materials.



BOOK SELECTION

1. BOOK SELECTION

The objective of Part 1 is to provide country teams with information and suggested steps to identify and select quality children’s storybooks and story cards (including fiction and nonfiction) for the Read@Home package. Part 1 has three sections. Section 1A includes an overview on what makes a good storybook, including elements such as level and language, illustrations, diverse characters and topics, and printing specifications. Section 1B recommends steps for identifying story card/book titles and book selection decisions at the country level, keeping in mind the country context, target population needs, and budget.

1A. CHARACTERISTICS OF QUALITY STORYBOOKS

Read@Home will focus on supporting the selection and distribution of children’s storybooks and story cards. Story cards are laminated cards for the youngest readers or for children with disabilities that can tell a story in pictures or a combination of pictures and text. These cards are double-sided and laminated on both sides to increase durability and to allow parents and teachers to wipe the story cards off between uses. They are much less expensive than books and so many more can be purchased for a given budget. Story cards can be used in many ways. Parents and caregivers can tell stories from the pictures, children can make up stories from the pictures, and children can begin to read simple texts with just a few words. Storybooks and story cards are designed for children to read independently or with a teacher, parent, older sibling or community member. Regardless of how they are used, story cards and books should follow guidelines for appropriate language, content, diversity, illustration, and design.

Box 1.1. Glossary of common terms in this section

The following terms will appear throughout the section:

- **Storybook** A book intended to be used as an engaging read-aloud or an independent pleasure-reading book
- **Reader** A book with text written for the specific purpose of teaching the mechanics of reading
- **Reading level** Measure of child ability to read. Used to ensure that children are exposed to books appropriate to their skill.
- **Story content** Plot, setting, characterization, interest/excitement, and length
- **Diversity** Inclusive and equitable treatment of race, religion, gender, disability, class, rural-urban divide
- **Illustrations** Visual elements in a book apart from text (such as use of color) designed to add child appeal, perspective, focus, or inclusiveness
- **Design** The integration of text and artwork, choice of fonts, use of white space
- **Production** Choice of paper quality, binding, color printing, format
- **Versioning** Translating that avoids word-for-word translation while keeping fidelity to the original story
- **Mother tongue** The first language one learns as a baby, rather than a language learned at school or as an adult
- **Language of instruction** Language in which formal schooling takes place; language used by teachers to teach

Adapted from [REACH Initiative’s Recommendations for Storybook Quality](#) and from [Cambridge Dictionary](#)

The main elements of each of these are described in detail below.^C Please note that these are aspirational objectives and may not be easily found in existing titles of all languages. In the short term, instead of trying to develop titles that fit all of these criteria—especially in terms of illustrations—teams should select existing titles that are available or easily versioned for their language and context.^D To facilitate easy reference when selecting books, the content below has been mapped to children’s reading levels, as described in Section 1B.

Reading level

As mentioned in the Introduction, children progress through various stages on their journey to learning to read. These stages are not completely discrete-- skills develop continuously and so it is impossible to say with complete precision whether a child is at one skill level or another. Nonetheless, understanding their skill levels helps match books and tasks to the learning and practice needs of children. [Table 1.1](#) provides the reading level that corresponds to each stage of literacy, so that teams can identify story books and cards that will be relevant to children at each stage.

Table 1.1. Overview of the stages of reading development

Stage	Skill level	Relevant Reading Level
Stage 0: Pre-Readers	These children have not begun formal instruction in literacy. They cannot read or identify letters or words, and therefore should be read to by caregivers. Although children might learn some letters and sounds because of being read to, the goal of being read to is not to start literacy instruction but rather to increase oral language abilities (basic vocabulary), enjoy being read to, and start understanding how print works.	Story cards and Level 1: Learning to read (might also include Levels 2-3 when being read to by literate parents)
Stage 1: Early Readers	These children are learning to decode/decipher print. They should have books with plenty of pictures, and few words (most of them familiar).	
Stage 2: Independent Readers	These children are beginning to read fluently and automatically, but still require plenty of practice with books that start with easier words and shorter phrases and sentences, and gradually increase in difficulty.	Level 2: Reading with help
Stage 3: Fluent Readers	These students can read plenty of texts effortlessly and automatically – often to themselves as “silent reading.” They need books that stimulate their interests and provide practice with reasonable amounts of new vocabulary and increasingly long and complex phrases and sentences.	Level 3: Reading independently; and Level 4: Reading proficiently

Source: Adapted from Chall (1983), pp. 10-24 and [Storyweaver’s Reading Level](#)

Note: Although this table utilizes Storyweaver’s reading levels, there are multiple other valid classifications of levels that match the stages of reading.

^C For more details, please see the REACH Initiative’s Recommendations for Storybook Quality.

^D Versioning refers to creating a new version of a story in another language, level or for another context. It entails avoiding word-for-word translation while keeping fidelity to the original story. For more details, please see the REACH Initiative’s Recommendations for Storybook Versioning which contains examples, checklists and others.

When selecting books for children, it is also important to keep in mind that many parents and caregivers may be at one of the basic reading skill levels. Likewise, children’s actual reading skill levels may lag behind the official levels expected for their grades (in many countries, children will be on levels 1 and 2 even if they are in primary education). Therefore, it is important for teams to review available data on children’s reading levels to guide the selection of books for the Read@Home package. Providing books with larger font size, vivid illustrations, and limited text will support these caregivers to better engage with their children around books.

Language

The language of the book is a critical element in making a story enjoyable. Global evidence consistently shows that students learn more in the language(s) they understand best.²⁶ When children have access to books in their mother tongue, their parents and communities are also more likely to be involved in their learning.²⁷ Stories that have rhythm, rhyme, and repetition support the youngest readers with word recognition, memory, and confidence. If mother tongue books are not available, teams may need to develop new titles, which can be facilitated through the use of title development software such as [Bloom](#) and [African Storybook's software](#).

Content

Content refers to the elements of the story itself and how it is expressed, including topic and theme, plot and structure, characterization, setting and genre. Not all elements are applicable to nonfiction stories.

The *topic or theme* in the story is the underlying message and should be something to which all readers can relate. Topics like friendship, loss, animals, celebration, and having fun are widely applicable. Topics can also be nonfictional and can be linked to the school curriculum. Often children need stories to deal with difficult situations (as in Figure 1.1). Topics should encourage critical thinking and include issues pertinent to children and social issues prevalent in their communities. The range of stories should include both what young children know very well and unfamiliar topics.



Figure 1.1. In *Lost in the Dark*, children deal with being lost and alone.

The *plot* of the story should be interesting to young children and structured with a clear beginning, middle, and end. The plot does not have to be realistic—many early readers enjoy fantasy and science fiction—but it should still be logically developed. Nonfiction books may not have a plot, but they too should present information in an interesting and engaging way.



Figure 1.2. *The Green Apple and Sheep's Beautiful Hat* have characters who are fruit and animals but behave like children which children find very appealing.

Characterization, or the development of characters in a story, is critical to sustaining readers' interest. Research shows that young children enjoy stories about animals or other children their own age (Figure 1.2).

Stories need to have a *setting* (place or time) that appeals to the reader.

The package of stories should include a variety of *genres*, or categories of literature. Fiction includes traditional tales, fables, science fiction, historical fiction, and fantasy. Nonfiction storybooks include biographies of famous people and real-world topics related to math, science, geography, and travel.

Diversity. Children's storybooks should promote mutual understanding, empathy, and celebration of diversity within a safe, positive, and nurturing environment. Stories should expose children to both validating 'mirror' stories that reflect their own identities and circumstances, as well as 'window' stories that introduce them to worlds and lives beyond their own cultures and countries.²⁸ To the extent possible, a reading package should include books with one or more of the following elements:

- Inclusion of rural, urban, peri-urban settings
- Varying family types including nuclear, child / grandparent / female headed, intergenerational
- gender diversity
- Characters from different backgrounds, of different cultures and identities (including persons with disabilities).



Figure 1.3. In the book *Everyone Sees*, the girl protagonist wears glasses. In *Cloud Party*, one of the girls wears a headscarf.

Books should not promote tokenism, that is, stories in which diverse characters are present but do not take an active role, and they should not contain stereotypical representations. Figures 1.3 and 1.4 include examples of diversity in books.

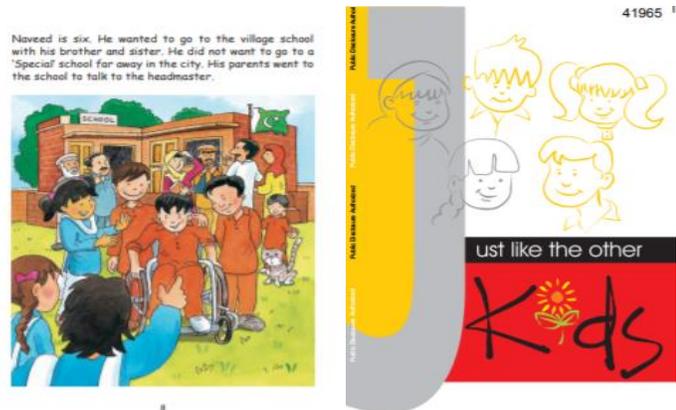


Figure 1.4. In the book *Just like the other kids*, one character is a child in a wheelchair

Illustrations

The images on each page should help children understand the story, especially for early readers. It is important that the world depicted in the illustration starts with what children know and moves gradually to the less familiar. Here are some considerations:

- Illustrations should be varied, including realistic, cartoon, comic, and paintings.
- Children like characters who look playful and friendly and who display obvious emotions. Research shows that children prefer storybooks that make them laugh.
- One illustration positioned consistently per page may improve comprehension and retention.²⁹ There is also evidence that too many illustrations per page are distracting and can impair reading.
- Illustrations should also make use of perspective, including close-up drawings to show emotions and panoramas to show setting (Figure 1.5).



Figure 1.5. A view of the setting in *An Unforgettable Adventure* and emotion on the faces of the children and dog in *Please, Puppy Please*.

Content Design

Content design refers to how the text and the illustrations are laid out on the page. Well-designed books are more visually appealing to children and good design assists children in reading and understanding the text. Books should be designed in a sans serif font, such as Andika, as these fonts are less complex and easier for early readers to understand. Each paragraph should be separated by four lines, and six line spaces should separate headings/titles from the body of the text to also aid early readers to understand text. Increasing font size and spacing also makes it easier for early readers to understand text. The minimum image resolution for both storybooks and story cards is 300 DPI. More details on design recommendations by reading level are included in Section 1B.

Physical specifications for books

This refers primarily to paper (for interior pages and covers) and binding. Paper and binding choices determine the cost and durability of books. Paper type, coating, and weight, as well as binding type, all have to be determined prior to book procurement. The recommended weight of paper is 80 gsm (grams per square meter), for interior pages and 250 gsm for book covers. For story cards, the recommended weight is 300 gsm, and these should be laminated on both sides to increase durability. Books under 96 pages, which will be the case for all Read@Home books other than anthologies, should be saddle stitched, using galvanized steel staples.³⁰

Below is a checklist designed to help teams in their book selection process. In particular, it is intended to help teams verify if the books being considered meet critical criteria with regards to reading level, language, content, illustrations, design, and physical specifications.

BOOK SELECTION

CHECKLIST

READING LEVEL

- Storybooks and cards take account of the reading level of target children & caregivers

LANGUAGE

- If possible, storybooks are written in the mother tongue

CONTENT

- Variety of topics (familiar and unfamiliar situations)
- Variety of genres (fiction & nonfiction)
- Logically developed plot
- Diversity (rural/urban, family types, gender, background, cultures, persons with disabilities)

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Varied illustrations (e.g. cartoon, realistic)
- Characters look playful, friendly and display obvious emotions
- Illustrations use perspective (close-up, panoramas)

DESIGN

- Sans serif font (e.g. Andika)
- Paragraphs separated by four lines
- Six-line spaces separate headings/titles from the body of the text
- Image resolution of 300 DPI or more

PHYSICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Books- At least 80 grams for pages and 250 for book covers
- Storycards- 300 grams, laminated on both sides

In an effort to get all children reading, countries can opt for a diverse set of literacy materials that respond to the variety of student needs. and that offer. Box 1.2 presents some ideas of multi-sensory and more accessible approaches to support children with disability in their reading process. These range from audio books, books with large fonts or in braille and even books with simple texts.

Box 1.2. Supporting children with disabilities to read:

Simple multi-sensory and more accessible approaches

For children with visual impairments:

- **Consider audio books or video read-alouds.** Some books now have audio and/or video read-aloud versions that can help blind and low-vision children.
- **Children who are blind learn to read by decoding Braille cells that represent letters (uncontracted Braille).** Every language has its own Braille code to correspond with its alphabet. Students use their fingers to recognize Braille letters, and then match the letters with phonemes, in the same way that sighted readers decode.
- **Produce books in large font for children with low vision.** The need for Braille vs. large print depends on individual students’ vision levels and preferences. Students with degenerative vision conditions may benefit from dual media literacy, learning braille and to read print.
- **Choose books with simple, uncluttered pictures.** Other senses may be heightened when children have visual or hearing impairments. Select books with clear contrast and bright bold colors and with photos of real objects. Large format books and font size help children see the characters and text better.

For children with communication disorders:

- **Use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) tools to enable children to symbolically express learning if they can’t participate orally and/or do not have motor skills required for sign language.** A printout of pictures referred to as Picture Exchange Communication (PEC) is an example of a low tech AAC. In the picture on the right, children demonstrate learning of the *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* book through the symbols on the communication board. As children learn to read, pictures and symbols can be replaced by printed words.



Box 1.2 (continued): Considerations when selecting books to support children with disabilities

For children who are deaf/hard of hearing:

- **Take advantage of their sensory strength- vision.** Try this six-step process for reading with children, especially if parents and children can sign: i) parent reads or signs a storybook to child; ii) child individually reads/signs storybook with picture and parent support; iii) parent closes storybook and models story retelling, followed by child individually retelling story with parent support; iv) child chooses print words from storybook and practices signing, fingerspelling and writing words; v) child chooses a favorite picture from storybook to draw, then labels it in print; vi) child explains in sign the meaning of the drawing in writing.
- **Engage other members of the adult deaf community** to tell the child stories in sign and translate the underdeveloped language of signs, gestures and vocalizations of young deaf children into a higher level.
- **Try shared reading.** In shared reading, parents or caregivers read aloud to children and stop at simple words or phrases for children to say them, sign them, or select a representation of them from a PEC board.
- **For young children, choose books with simple themes, rhymes, and repetition.** Look for books with repetition or rhymes. Look for books with animal sounds or other sounds that represent the actions in the story. The cat says “meow, meow” or the sound in the water goes “splish, splash”. This encourages children to make the sounds and talk.

For children with intellectual disabilities:

- **Choose more accessible books.** This includes books with simple text (fewer words, familiar vocabulary, simple grammar, repetitive phrases, larger font, more spacing between lines of text) pictures/graphics that reinforce meaning and build understanding, help comprehend a sentence, and/or teach a process. Online resources (e.g. rewordify.com) can help simplify text.
- **Ask children to demonstrate comprehension through alternative, non-text forms of expression.** Pair books with pictures for comprehension questions. For example, provide three pictures of events that take place and ask children to arrange the images in the correct order.
- **Be mindful of attention spans.** A typically developing four-year-old can usually listen for about 12 minutes, while a five-year-old’s attention span may be up to 20 minutes. A child with delays will likely have a shorter attention span and may take longer to process stories. Simplifying stories for can help to maintain attention.

For children with motor skills delays:

- **Glue objects onto books.** Create “page turners” –such as sticks glued onto each page at varying levels to make it easier for children to grasp and turn the pages. This helps develop fine motor skills.

Sources: Taken from [First5 Contra Costa](#) and [USAID’s Universal Design for Learning to Help all Children Read](#). Additional guidance and resources can be found in [Storyweaver’s](#) read-along series which include an audio component to a digital book.

As [Table 1.2](#) shows, the reading levels of the story cards and books that are selected for children in the Read@Home package need to fit their stage of reading development. [Table 1.2](#) maps the reading levels to the four characteristics of storybook quality. As storybooks do not always indicate a reading level, this table provides examples of what to look for to determine the level of a particular storybook in your country.

Table 1.2 Elements of a quality storybook by reading levels

Reading Level	Content	Diversity	Illustrations	Design
<p>Story cards and Level 1: Learning to Read</p> <p>Example Titles: My Brother and Me My Body</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Familiar objects and experiences - Simple plots - Word repetition - Rhythm and rhyme - Care should be taken to include materials aimed at older readers with lower reading levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversity in characters (different backgrounds, cultures, languages, including persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities etc.) - Different types of families - Rural, urban, peri-urban settings - Gender diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One informative picture placed consistently on the page - Text and pictures should support each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large font (size 26) - Double-spaced - One sentence per page - Less than 5 words per sentence - Repeated words - Word range: 0 to 250
<p>Level 2: Reading with Help</p> <p>Example titles: Aunty Jui's Baby Different Abilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simple genres in fiction and nonfiction - Stories with linear, engaging plots - Familiar content: home, neighborhood, and school - For older readers at lower reading levels, content should be targeted to their interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversity in characters (different backgrounds, cultures, languages, including persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities etc.) - Different types of families - Rural, urban, peri-urban settings - Gender diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illustrations depicting multiple ideas - Text and pictures should support each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 22-24 size font - 3-8 lines of text per page - Fewer repeated words - Typically, 10-12 pages total - Word range: 250 to 600
<p>Level 3: Reading Independently</p> <p>Example titles: Holidays with Grandmother The Novel Coronavirus: We can Stay Safe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Popular topics (adventure, mystery, etc.) - Short non-fiction texts on one topic - More complex characters - More unfamiliar settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversity in characters (different backgrounds, cultures, languages, including persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities etc.) - Different types of families - Rural, urban, peri-urban settings - Gender diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New vocabulary and concepts may be illustrated to support comprehension in nonfiction texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14-16 size font - Sentences carry over pages - Many lines of print per page - Longer sentences – 10 words or more - Word range: 600 to 1500
<p>Level 4: Reading Proficiently</p> <p>Example titles: Arya in the Cockpit Grandma's Bananas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-fiction texts on many related topics - Complex and mature themes (racism, bullying, diversity) and abstract concepts (love, survival, war) - Unfamiliar plots and settings - Longer, more nuanced stories with many characters - Rich vocabulary - Language play (metaphors, similes, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversity in characters (different backgrounds, cultures, languages, including persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities etc.) - Different types of families - Rural, urban, peri-urban settings - Gender diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New vocabulary and concepts may be illustrated to support comprehension in nonfiction texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14-16 size font - Up to 150 words per page - Sentences carry over pages - Many lines of print per page - Word range: 1500+

Sources: Information on word count, number of sentences per page and page count adapted from [Fountas and Pinnell Leveling Guidelines](#) and [Storyweaver's Reading Levels](#) .

Note: Although this table is based on Storyweaver's Reading Levels, it is important to note that there are multiple valid methodologies that determine book's Reading Levels taking on account the difficulty of the texts.

1B. IDENTIFYING AND SELECTING BOOK TITLES

Selecting the right mix and number of books for the Read@Home package is important. This section suggests steps to identify and select story card and book titles. Throughout the section, the suggestions will also address common challenges that World Bank and government staff may face in the process.

Step 1: Making decisions on language

Research shows that children learn to read best in a language they know and understand, even after formal schooling begins. Even with formal instruction in their home or first language, it will take at least six years of good instruction and sufficient instructional time for children to become proficient readers and writers. However, policies on language of instruction are influenced by larger political and economic considerations: language is closely tied to national and political identity, and parents often view competence in international language as key to children’s careers success. Therefore, decisions regarding language of instruction must take into account the educational evidence and the broader political and economic context.³¹

Ideally, storybooks in the Read@Home package should be written in the mother tongue. In countries that do not currently use the mother tongue as a language of instruction, teams are encouraged to explore the technical, political, and economic dimensions of language policy. It may be possible to develop an agreement that the Read@Home books, which are not textbooks and are intended for home use, be in the mother tongue. This will build children’s early reading skills for easier acquisition of the official language. For more information on language issues, please refer to USAID’s [Handbook on Language of Instruction Issues in Reading Programs](#)³² or to SIL’s [Good Answers to Tough Questions in Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education](#).³³

Step 2: Identifying available children’s books and story cards

Many countries and languages have existing story cards and books that have been developed by the government, by NGOs, or by local book publishers through support from USAID, the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO, formerly DfID), World Bank, foundations, or other donors. Many titles are licensed through the Creative Commons (CC) 4.0 International Attribution (CC BY 4.0) or other CC licenses. Depending on the license, this may mean that books are “open source” and can be printed, distributed, adapted, and translated so long as the original authors and publisher are acknowledged. Titles developed with local authors and communities are more likely to accurately represent the culture and environment of local children and families, but it can be hard to find these titles. Country teams are encouraged to seek out titles developed for particular countries and languages, with the help of country-level stakeholders and international digital libraries. These actors and questions may be useful to find titles.

Finding existing children’s books in-country. Children’s books are available from various sources, not just bookstores and publishers. Check with the following actors about existing materials in-country:

- Ministry of Education officials
- Publishers and booksellers
- Funders (e.g. USAID, NORAD, FCDO) and sponsoring organizations (e.g. foundations)
- UN agencies engaged in education (e.g. UNESCO and UNICEF)
- International, regional, and national NGOs or community organizations focused on literacy (e.g. Uwezo, CODE, Save the Children, World Vision, Pratham, Room to Read, USAID implementing partners)
- Private schools.

Key questions for government and partners:

- What open-source story cards and books are available in country? Are there catalogs or libraries of these books available?
- Has a survey of reading materials been conducted in the past five years or do partners have their own catalogs that could be shared?
- Is there a list of storybooks already approved or in-use within the public education system or other government channels?
- Will some form of approval or review of the materials package be required? And if so, what is the process/timeline?^E

Finding existing children’s books globally. If your team is having difficulty identifying book titles in-country, there are global digital libraries that include illustrated and well-written books in hundreds of languages on a variety of topics aligned to the quality characteristics outlined in Section 1A. Four digital libraries are especially valuable in this regard: Pratham Books’ [StoryWeaver](#), the [African Storybook Initiative](#), the [Bloom library](#), and the [Global Digital Library](#) (with its repository of print-ready files) all house many open-source children’s books produced by local and international NGOs, as well as development projects. Most of these titles are also registered under the Creative Commons 4.0 International Attribution (CC BY 4.0) or other CC licenses and the platforms include software to easily version books into relevant languages and contexts. For more information on the process of versioning available titles into relevant languages and other adaptations, please see REACH’s [Recommendations for Storybook Versioning](#). [Table 1.3](#) summarizes the features of each of the four digital libraries mentioned above.

^E Given that approval processes can be complicated, teams are advised to consider titles that are already government-approved. If there are not enough appropriate, government-approved titles, teams are advised to review open-source titles available in their country or on digital platforms that could be adapted for their languages and contexts. If this is not possible, teams may need to develop new titles, which can be facilitated through the use of title development software such as Bloom (<https://bloomlibrary.org/>) and African Storybook’s software (<https://www.africanstorybook.org/>).

Table 1.3. Summary of global digital libraries.

Library	Summary	Features				
		Languages	Search	Download	Translation	Audio/Video
Global Digital Library	A flagship activity of the Global Book Alliance, the library collects existing open reading resources and makes them available on web, mobile and for print.	5,000+ titles in 72 languages currently available with the goal of 100 languages by end-2020	Functionality to search by language and levels (1, 2, 3, 4 or read-aloud, which is not leveled but is usually at level 2)	Download for print in multiple file formats	Translate feature to facilitate translation to more than 300 languages	Some books have accompanying audio
	The <u>print repository</u> of the library launched in March 2020 and includes print-ready files of reading books.	500 files in 23 languages available	Currently organized by language only	Download for print in pdf format	No translate feature	No accompanying video/audio
StoryWeaver	Developed by Pratham Books, this library has thousands of open-licensed children's stories in hundreds of languages. .	25,000 titles in 261 languages currently available	Functionality to search by language, levels, topic or publisher	Download for print as pdf file	Easy translation feature to add new languages	Some books have accompanying videos or audio
Bloom Library	Developed by SIL International, this library has thousands of open-sourced children's books in hundreds of languages.	6,250 titles in 410 languages currently available	Functionality to search by language, region, topic, publisher or level (1 and 2)	Download for print as publisher or pdf files	Easy translation feature to add new languages	Some books have accompanying videos or audio
African Storybook Initiative	This library facilitates open access to storybooks in African languages.	Nearly 1,500 books in 210 languages currently available	Functionality to search by title, date, language and reading level	Download for print as publisher or pdf files	MAKE feature to create, translate and adapt stories	No accompanying video/audio

Step 3. Understanding target group reading levels

When selecting books for families, it will be important to consider the actual reading level of each child in the household. Not all children learn to read at the same age, and even within age brackets there is variability in reading levels. Given high rates of learning poverty in many Read@Home countries, most children in primary school may be in Levels 1 or 2. Here are a few ways that World Bank and clients can work together to identify the levels of books needed for the target groups.

Review existing data. Most countries conduct or participate in standardized assessments. Recently, there has been much more focus on assessing children in the early grades of primary schools. Internationally developed assessments such as the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA), civil society assessments such as Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) and Uwezo, regional assessments such as Programme d'analyse des systèmes éducatifs de la confemen (PASEC), and national assessments are all sources of information about the reading levels of young children. Reviewing assessment data will give you and your client governments a good place to start determining which books will be most appropriate for your target beneficiaries.

Engage the Ministry of Education. Discussions with Ministry of Education colleagues can help confirm the range of reading levels for the target group characteristics (e.g. rural, minority, or indigenous). If there are books already used in the classroom or in school libraries identified in Step 1 above, these examples would be helpful to both identify the reading levels and to be included in the Read@Home package. The guidelines by reading level in Table above, specifically in the columns on design and content, can support discussion.

Engage relevant civil society groups, including NGOs. Groups working on improving educational quality and learning often have strong knowledge of existing reading levels among different populations. Convening focus groups or workshops to review the materials that these groups are using and to discuss appropriate materials for Read@Home will produce more appropriate materials and strengthen country ownership.

Test books with children. Depending on access, country teams can also test books with small groups of children from the beneficiary target groups or those with similar characteristics. Teams can also ask decentralized government offices and civil society groups to test materials. Care should be taken to ensure that children are representative of the target population and not only a “convenience sample.” Teams can print a few selected books for use with children. If there are five or more words per page in a book that children struggle with, that book is too hard. This testing could be conducted individually with no-contact and social distancing.

Step 4. Determining minimum number of story cards and storybooks

To support children’s emergent literacy skills, the more books available in a variety of genres in the home environment, the better. While the availability of titles must be taken into account, countries should aim to distribute as many books as feasible with their budget. So far, countries in the Read@Home initiative have distributed from 8-12 books per child (see Section 1C for more details on costing books). Households with multiple children will need books at different levels. In these households, even if some books are too easy for some children, they can read them out loud to younger children while improving their reading fluency. If some books are too hard, older siblings or adults can support children until they can read independently. More details on how to use story cards and story books to support children’s reading are included in Part 2: Caregiver Engagement.

One way to expand the number of books available to families is through a small group exchange. This could be done by grouping families in a similar location and with using the Read@Home manual to make decisions and accompanying learning activities. In this round, families could receive different books and then be connected in small groups to rotate books among themselves, which can also facilitate support for one another.

Because children and families will need additional books to support children’s reading, it is ideal for the Read@Home package to complement broader reading interventions at the community and school levels. The next section of this manual includes suggested strategies for ongoing engagement to promote reading at home, such as community exchanges.

1C. COSTING CHILDREN’S BOOKS AND STORY-CARDS

Costing books starts with making decisions about the desired physical characteristics, or “technical specifications,” of the books. These characteristics include paper size, paper weight, paper type, binding, trim size, and others. The use of correct specifications maximizes the number of books that can be printed for a given budget. The most important specifications are:

- *Number of pages (extent):* Books are printed on large sheets of paper that contain multiple pages of content. Given the way that these pages are folded for the final book, the number of pages in a book should always be divisible by 4.
- *Paper size (format):* Printing standard sized books reduces paper waste, as paper is produced in standard sized sheets and rolls. Commonly used sizes for children’s books are A4 (210mm X 297mm) and A5 (148mm X 210mm).
- *Paper weight (grammage):* Using an appropriate weight paper is important for readability and durability. Paper that is too light will tear easily. 80 gsm is a standard weight for interior book pages and 250 gsm is a standard weight for covers.
- *Binding:* There are multiple types of book binding. For books up to 96 pages, such as most children’s reading books, saddle stitching with two galvanized (to prevent rusting) wire staples along the spine of the book is the preferred option. Saddle stitching is the least expensive book binding method and books should last for at least one year of classroom use. Durability in homes will depend on the context. For books with more pages and settings requiring sturdier books, perfect binding (using hotmelt glue) with section sewing or perfect binding with PUR (polyurethane glue) are recommended.

Most supplemental reading materials for children are printed in color, although there is little data available on the pedagogic impact of color. With advances in printing technology and the size of print runs likely in most Read@Home countries, the cost differences between black and white printing and color printing will be minimal.

Story cards should be considered for the youngest readers. They are made of heavier paper and are laminated on both sides to increase durability. Lamination also allows parents and teachers to wipe the story cards off between uses.

Client governments should *always* require samples of the paper to be used for printing during the procurement process and examine a sample of the books they receive from the printer to ensure that the books received match the technical specifications used for procurement.

The Read@Home team is producing a *Procurement and Delivery Guidance* document which will be linked to this manual once it is ready. In the meantime, please reach out to the global [Read@Home team](#) for support. For additional information, see “[Best Practices for Developing Supplementary Reading Materials](#)”.

Table 1.4. Indicative Costs (indicative maximums; costs in your country may be lower)

	Specifications	Number of pages/cards	Cost per copy (US\$)
Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format: A5 (14.8 x 21.0 cm, about 5¾ x 8¼ in) • Paper: 80 gsm white woodfree • Cover: 250 gsm white, coated one side • Printing: Full color offset, letterpress, or gravure • Binding: Two galvanized wire stitches (staples) on spine • Order quantity: 10,000 copies 	8	0.55 – 0.65
		16	0.95 – 1.05
		32	1.35 – 1.45
Reading Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format: A4 (21.0 x 29.7 cm, about 8¼ x 11¾ in) • Board: 300 gsm white, laminated both sides • Printing: Full-color offset, letterpress, or gravure • Trim: Corners rounded • Order quantity: 10,000 cards 	1	0.03 – 0.05
		Set of 10	0.30 – 0.50



GUIDANCE FOR
CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT

2. GUIDANCE FOR CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT

Having books at home is critical for children’s learning. Books alone, however, will not improve learning outcomes. Books must be accompanied by guidance to caregivers that increase use and encourage supportive practices (such as reading to children and with children). Parents and other caregivers are children’s first teachers. Importantly, all caregivers—even those who are busy, cannot read, or are not accustomed to engaging with children—can play a critical role in helping children learn to read.

The objective of this section is to provide country teams with information and suggested steps to find, develop, and distribute the guidance for caregivers that will be part of the Read@Home package. The section is organized into three parts. Section 2A presents strategies for caregiver involvement before, during, and after reading with children to support oral language development, emergent literacy, and advanced literacy development. This section is supplemented by Appendices A through D, which comprise sample handouts containing strategies to share with parents. These Annexes can help improve the quality of existing guidance or inform the development of new guidance. Section 2B provides an overview of options for message delivery, ranging from in-home visits to text messages. Section 2C includes recommended steps to identify existing caregiver guidance in a given country context.

2A. STRATEGIES FOR CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER READING

Caregiver engagement in reading can be beneficial for children across all reading stages. For instance, when Pre-Readers (those at Stage 0 in [Table A](#)) listen to caregivers read to them (or narrate from pictures), they increase their oral language abilities by learning the meaning of the new words they hear. They also develop listening skills, become aware of print, and start to understand that symbols and text carry meaning. When done well, being read to in this way allows children to hear books being read with proper expression. They even learn about normal speeds for reading aloud, and how these are like normal speeds for talking when not reading.^f For Early Readers (stages 1 in [Table A](#)), reading out loud continues to foster a wider vocabulary. Additionally, discussions about characters and places also help build background and world knowledge. Independent and Fluent Readers (stages 3 and 4 in [Table A](#)) still need to get practice with the basic reading skills. However, they go further into making predictions on what may happen or what can be inferred from the text even if it is not stated explicitly. Practice with these more advanced reading skills helps children think critically and even understand different viewpoints. It can help put them on the road to a virtuous cycle in which they read, reflect, gain skills, and then want to read more and widen their learning. For some readers, this process never stops, as even as adults they are finding new books and ideas to challenge them to grow as readers and thinkers.

What follows lays out activities that caregivers can do before, during, and after time spent reading with their children to develop their reading skills, create habits around reading, and importantly, associate reading with joy. To ease the translation of the activities into handouts or messages sent to caregivers, it

^f Refer to Appendix A for a list of parental activities to foster oral language development that go beyond reading.

is written as if directly speaking to the caregiver. Appendices A through C present sample handouts for caregivers with and without minimum literacy skills to apply these steps. If you are interested in accessing more resources and materials, we recommend revising the [Covid-19 Reading Comprehension Guidance: Tips for Parents and Caregivers](#) developed by the Reading Comprehension Interest Group.⁶ *

Before reading

For all readers:

- **Show that reading matters by creating a book corner.** This is a space in the home where caregivers and family members can sit together to read. Empty boxes can be used to store books and other reading materials next to a bed, chair, or mat, depending on where families have space. Even in families where caregivers cannot read, it is important to show children that reading is important and enjoyable. Creating a culture of reading in the home shows children that books are valuable, and that reading should not be limited to school. Drawings, letters of the alphabet, and new vocabulary words can be stuck to the wall or hung on string attached to windows. The idea is to make a cozy space that is associated with and used for pleasurable reading activities.
- **Create a habit around reading by setting up a time to read.** This is another way to show that reading matters and of setting an example. Routines are important for young children. They help provide structure to a child's day and give children some guidance on what to expect. Many families read to their children before bedtime, but each family should determine what time that works for them within their daily routine.
- **Choose a book together.** Allow children to choose which book to read among those that target their level and those that are below their reading level to increase their enjoyment. Do not worry if the book is below their level sometimes; it will still be beneficial for children. More advanced readers can handle more complex topics and themes and may have genre preferences.
- **Make predictions.** Before beginning a read aloud, allow children to look at the illustration on the front cover, read the title and make predictions about what the story could be about. Asking children to make predictions helps them be more focused and attentive and encourages them to make linkages with the text and their own lives.

⁶ The simplified Spanish version of the document can be found [here: http://biblioteca.red-lei.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=14393](http://biblioteca.red-lei.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=14393)

During reading

For re-Readers (Stages 0-1):

- **Read to children and help them learn how to handle books and other basic concepts about print.** As children are building their literacy skills, they have yet to understand that words and letters convey meaning. They may also not know how to handle books or turn pages. Caregivers who can read can show the front and back covers, read the title and author's name, and point to where the first word in the sentence is and say it out loud.
- **Use illustrations to build vocabulary.** Throughout the story, point out different objects and name them. Ask where something is on the page, e.g., "Where is the red bird?"

For all readers:

- **Read with expression when reading to and with children.** Using different voices for different characters creates interest in the story and helps children to distinguish between characters.
- **Ask about new or difficult words.** Talk about any words the child may not understand. Give an example of what the word means.
- **Ask questions.** Ask open questions, such as, "What do you notice?" or "What do you think about the characters?" to gauge children's interest in the story. Ask literal questions to determine whether children have understood key ideas within the text, such as, "Where is the story taking place?" or "What is the name of the child's uncle?" For children with advanced literacy skills, ask more detailed questions about plot, character motivation, and theme. Questions can range from factual/literal (where children are asked to recall specific facts from a story) to more advanced (where children are asked to make inferences and evaluate aspects of the story based on evidence from the text).

After reading

Activities for all readers:

- **Retell.** Summarizing is an effective way to gauge whether children have understood the content of a read aloud. Caregivers can ask children to tell the story again in their own words.
- **Re-read the story together.** Children, especially young children, love repetition and do not get bored hearing the same story read again and again. Hearing a story multiple times helps with vocabulary development and comprehension.
- **Write or draw a summary or key episode from the story.** Ask children to draw or write a few sentences to summarize the story. Provide prompts to assist, such as (1) who are the characters in the story?; (2) what was the problem?; (3) how was it solved?; (4) who helped? Children who are not yet writing can draw images from the story and have an older sibling or adult write a summary as they dictate. If children are already learning how to write and

spell, this activity can help them practice. Caregivers can encourage more advanced readers to think about the structure of the story, with a beginning, middle, and end.

- **Act out the story.** If there are multiple children in the household, have them play different characters in the book and act the story out. Young children love activities where they use their bodies, and this is a fun and exciting way for young children to interact with books.
- **Talk about the new vocabulary that comes out in the story.** As children advance in reading skills, they interact with more complex texts. Unfamiliar words, mature themes, and multiple characters make it harder to follow along with the story. Making time during reading to ask questions to gauge comprehension is helpful. After reading, going deeper with vocabulary and comprehension activities ensures that learning will be retained.
- **Play games.** Simple games that strengthen emergent literacy skills, such as letter-sound relationships, word recognition, and patterns support reading and provide a scaffold for independent reading. Appendix C includes activities caregivers can do to support their children’s literacy development

Box 2.1. Reading strategies to support children with disabilities

Children who have reading disabilities often feel frustration and a lack of self-confidence when it comes to reading. It is important to build their confidence and practice strategies that will help make reading more manageable. The following are some strategies to use when reading with children with disabilities:

Explicitly focus on word-sound relationships. Research has shown that children with reading disabilities benefit from phonemic awareness activities. Some activities to develop this skill when reading include clapping out the sounds of each letter in a word in sequence; and pointing to a letter in the book and saying its sound, asking the child to provide the name of the letter.

Multi-sensory learning. Children with reading disabilities need additional time and repetition to master letter-sound relationships and other key literacy skills. It is helpful for them to have their hands, eyes, ears, and voices working together for conscious organization and retention. Some activities to support multi-sensory learning include: Pointing out new words that start with a particular letter in the book and having the child say the word out loud. This makes a link between the sound of that word and its written form; using hand gestures to help with meaning making to help children that are more visual. For example, when reading a story, adults can assist by pointing to various objects as they read the text out loud: “Mother (point to herself) made tea (mime sipping tea) for the guest.”

Source: [Universal design for learning to help all children read: Promoting literacy for learners with disabilities](#) (Hayes, Turnbull & Moran 2018).

2B. DELIVERING CONTENT TO CAREGIVERS AS PART OF THE READ@HOME PACKAGE

After developing content for caregivers, it is crucial to distribute it in an effective way so that it can change behaviors and practices and, ultimately, make a difference in the reading levels of children. What follows starts by providing advice on how to map out existing services to distribute caregiver guidance, followed by recommendations on different approaches teams could consider to orient caregivers to the Read@Home package and caregiver guidance and to check in with caregivers.

Mapping out potential contact points with caregivers

Teams and governments are encouraged to start by mapping existing services and programs in the country that are already reaching target families and approach them to explore how they could be supported to deliver, orient and then follow up with target families. The following are some potential touchpoints and step to follow:

Potential touchpoints. Think through existing programs or spaces that have contact with families or caregivers. This could include:

- Cash transfer programs with regular meetings and/or a parenting accompanying measure;
- Education programs, such as formal or informal early childhood education programs (including center based or home visits), formal or informal basic and secondary education programs, after-school classes, and adult literacy or agriculture extension programs;
- Health programs, including health and developmental checkups, home visits, vaccination campaigns, community nutrition counselling, HIV support groups, or others;
- Community engagement programs run by faith-based leaders and groups (e.g. men and women's support groups);
- Community engagement programs run by nongovernmental organizations (national and international) or community organizations that regularly engage caregivers. These could be focused on savings groups, literacy, parenting, psychosocial support, or community works, among others. Those focused on literacy are ideal, but community works and others might also be useful; and
- Distance education programs, especially common during COVID-19 school closures. This might involve TV, radio, Short Messaging Services (SMS), Interactive Audio Instruction (IAI), and print materials.

Steps:

- Start with programs that have a regular contact with caregivers in your target area. Those that involve a component of caregiver training or regular (weekly to monthly) meetings should be prioritized.

If programs with regular contact with caregivers are not available, identify locations that caregivers frequently access, such as a health center, social safety net office, preschool, primary school, or partner office.

Orientation for the provision of caregiver guidance when distributing the Read@Home Package

Regardless of the form of delivery, the following principles should be considered during the design of distribution plans for caregiver guidance:

- **Language selection:** Materials should be written in a language that caregivers understand. In some contexts, this might not be the language of instruction but a local language or sign language;^H
- **Clear messages:** Messages should be simple and clear. This implies avoiding jargon or technical words; keeping texts to a minimum; using language at a beginner’s reading level; and in contexts with low-literacy adults, relying mostly on illustrations;
- **Wide delivery:** The delivery of messages must be designed so that it reaches the maximum number of caregivers in the most compelling way and leverages existing services. This might involve a combination of audio, visuals, and print; and
- **Orientation and Follow-up:** Caregivers need support to first understand the guidance and then to practice and form habits. Distribution plans should take into account both how to orient caregivers as well as how to continue to encourage practice and troubleshoot challenges.

Methods of distributing the Read@Home package for caregivers will vary by context. Written guidance that accompanies books is the easiest to scale up. However, when the level of literacy of caregivers is low, other means (e.g. face-to-face meetings, phone calls, radio, audio messages, Interactive Voice Recording (IVR)) should be considered as well. How prevalent technology is in the community, whether there is electricity, and mobile phone ownership will also impact how materials are shared and communicated. Not all strategies will work for all contexts, and some contexts will have to use a mix of strategies. In the immediate term, since the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to limit face-to-face interaction and support, some creative approaches will be needed. Several strategies are listed below; their advantages and disadvantages are synthesized in [Table 2.1. Considerations of different modalities.](#)

Face to face and group meetings

Home delivery of materials and one on one consultations. The ideal method for showing caregivers how to use the Read@Home materials is through a one-on-one consultation in the parents’ home, which

^H Please refer to the [Inclusive Education Resource Guide](#) for ideas to consider for reaching parents or caregivers with disabilities

should take place when a trained facilitator visits the home to deliver the materials. The session should last no more than 60 minutes. In it, the facilitator can:

- Provide caregivers with a brief overview of the project;
- Show them the books included in the Read@Home package, explaining what target reading level each book is best suited for;
- Share some information on the importance of having books in the home, allowing children time to read every day, and on the role caregivers play in supporting children’s literacy development;
- Ask what activities caregivers already do with their children in the home and provide positive feedback on their efforts;
- Demonstrate the read-aloud, and the questions to ask before, during, and after a read-aloud;
- Review the steps of the read-aloud with the assumption that the caregiver cannot read and adjust as needed;
- Encourage the caregivers to try the read-aloud in front of them with their child and provide encouragement and feedback (positive feedback, rather than overly correcting); and
- At the end of the visit, the facilitator can give caregivers simple handouts that explain some of the literacy activities in more detail and ask them to do one of these activities everyday with their children.

By meeting caregivers in their own home, issues of non-attendance due to lack of transportation or cultural issues (e.g., when women are not allowed to travel alone) are bypassed. Further, caregivers may be more inclined to ask questions, may feel a greater commitment to the program, and can forge stronger relationships with the facilitator in these individualized sessions.

If this initial visit cannot be made in person, it could be done over a short phone call considering the following steps:

1. Provide caregivers with a brief overview of the project.
2. With the books in front of the caregiver, talk through the books included in the Read@Home package, explaining what target reading level each book is best suited for.
3. Share some information on the importance of having books in the home, allowing children time to read every day, and on the role that caregivers play in supporting children’s literacy development.
4. Ask what activities caregivers already do with their children in the home and provide positive feedback on their efforts.
5. Ask the caregiver to look at the illustrations/messages on the handout and explain each step/activity, pausing for questions.
6. Encourage the caregiver to make commitments to use the books and guidance to read with their children daily.
7. Plan the time/date of a follow-up call/meeting.

Ideally, the initial visit should be followed by additional support, either in person or by phone or text (see [Box 2.2](#)). However, this method may not be possible for programs with national coverage that aim to be

implemented quickly as part of the COVID-19 response, because a trained facilitator is crucial to the success of the home consultation.¹

Group workshops and pick-up of materials. In the event that Read@Home materials cannot be delivered to each household, but COVID-19 distancing still allows for small-group meetings, materials can be picked up at a trusted partner organization (place of worship, school, community center, local NGO) or through existing government programs like parental engagement sessions that often accompany cash transfer programs or adult literacy programs. Small groups of caregivers can sit down together for a short workshop (30-45 minutes) on how to use the materials when they attend these sessions or come to the pick-up location. It is important to note that facilitators can be given one or two brief (30 minute) virtual trainings to orient them on materials and activities.

When planning these workshops, keep in mind the following elements to ensure meetings are beneficial for all participants:

- When holding introductory meetings, consult with community members on a time that suits the schedule of parents/caregivers and ensure the meeting venue is centrally located. In some cases, multiple meetings may need to be scheduled due to distance or cultural norms.
- Ensure the space where meetings are held is accessible to all people, especially those that use assistive devices like wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches or other mobility devices.
- Ensure that facilitators speak the language of the community; keep in mind this may not be the national language but a local language.
- Facilitators should share key messages on the importance of caregivers' roles in supporting children's learning.
- During meetings, facilitators should model the steps to reading with children through a brief role play, review the package contents together, and allow time for caregivers and community members to practice and ask questions.
- Ensure all participants, especially women, people from minority groups, and those with disabilities have access to information and resources.
- At the end of the meeting, ask participants to make commitments to use the books and the guidance to read with their children daily.

Again, follow-up support after a workshop will be essential.

¹ Ideally, facilitators should be from the same community as Read@Home families and speak the same language. Having experience working with families and community members on programs related to health, education, community mobilization, (etc.) would be beneficial. All facilitators should be well-versed on background and goals, including the importance of books in the home and family engagement around reading. They should be trained to demonstrate all activities included in the guide and understand the skills each activity develops.

Pre-recorded video shared at a partner location

Issues related to the COVID 19 pandemic may not allow country offices to hold large meetings or go to homes to distribute materials. An alternative would be to record a short video (10 minutes maximum) that explains key attributes of the Read@Home project, key strategies caregivers can do with children to foster literacy development, and showcase the materials being provided. These videos can be shown at a partner location—a school, place of worship, local NGO, health community center, or nutrition or social protection program—at predetermined times, and caregivers can sign up for a time that is convenient for them. Materials can also be picked up at these locations for caregivers to take home. For caregivers that have video-playing devices at home, DVDs can be made of the instructional recording and sent home with caregivers. For those with cellphones and data, shorter videos or instructions can be sent through WhatsApp.

Employing technology to disseminate information

Television. Many homes in rural and low-income contexts have access to television (TV), and countries are using TV as a channel to reach children during school closures due to COVID-19. Further, other homes have regular access to television shows (public access or otherwise). In these contexts, TV can be a useful mode of communicating Read@Home instructional guidance. Short, weekly segments can be aired (10 minutes maximum) that start by providing background to the Read@Home project along with descriptions of the type of materials being provided to families. Subsequent segments can then focus on how to read out loud to children, with facilitators demonstrating and asking caregivers to (remotely) follow along. Caregivers should be provided with the relevant handouts on reading out loud to children based on the target population. These segments could be taped in different languages, depending on the language diversity in the community. Country offices would need to research which channels the target families subscribe to and which would be the most optimal to air content. With this initiative, it is important to find a way to let families know what time and channel to tune into to listen to the messages and to acknowledge that the audience reached might be wider than the one receiving the materials. Additional guidance on using video and TV to provide remote education can be found in [USAID’s Delivering Distance Learning in Emergencies](#).

Interactive Audio Instruction (IAI). IAI has been an effective instructional strategy for many decades, particularly in rural contexts where other forms of technology are limited.³⁴ IAI uses radio or preloaded devices (such as Secure Digital- SD cards) as interactive tools to disseminate information, provide instruction, and broadcast stories. Often the IAI component is followed up with an in-person component, but this is not necessary. The wide reach of radio in many low-income countries has made radio a common distance learning strategy during COVID-19. In fact, countries and regions such as Peru, Guatemala, Maranhao State (Brazil),^J and Mexico are developing short parenting engagement sessions over radio that

^J For further information on the experience of Maranhao State, please refer to the [Brazil- Educacao Infantil no Maranhao \(Early Learning in Maranhao\)](#) continuity story.

last three to four minutes each. For countries where this is the case, Read@Home strategies on material use can be designed and disseminated through IAI for communities where radio use is common and is used as a regular source of information. The [Covid-19 Reading Comprehension Guidance: Tips for Parents and Caregivers](#) developed by the Reading Comprehension Interest Group contains radio adaptation examples of reading comprehension at home.

Text and audio messages using mobile phones. Mobile phone ownership has become very common throughout the developing world. It can be a cost-effective way to send messages on a variety of topics. In contexts where mobile penetration is high, Read@Home strategies can be delivered by SMS text or audio-recorded, with different instructional or pedagogical ideas shared weekly. If this mode of message delivery is successful, it can be expanded to include additional topics around language, literacy and childhood development. Caregivers could be given a toll-free number to call, which would have pre-recorded information on a variety of topics that caregivers can select. An [early childhood and parenting project](#) in Bangladesh using this modality has been very well received by rural families.

It will be necessary to alert caregivers that these audio/text messages are coming to ensure that they actually listen to/read the messages, as it is common for people to delete messages that come from numbers they do not recognize. Additionally, it may be necessary to have a way to update phone numbers, because families sometimes change their mobile number if they find a better deal from another provider. Finally, making sure caregivers know they will not get charged for receiving and reading or listening to a message is also important in ensuring messages get listened to/read.

Posters and flyers. Social behavioral change communications campaigns have gained in popularity in the education sector. Coupled with IAI and community meetings, posters, when designed well, can convey important information and knowledge to community members. A series of posters utilizing images or illustrations of locals reading together with a simple literacy message written in local and official languages can be put up around town, with different literacy messages on each one.³⁵

Box 2.2. Following-up after package delivery

Ideally, the initial contact with families should be followed by additional support, either in person or by phone or text, to foster habit formation. The following strategies might be useful when following up.

- When contacting families through a two-way-communication channel (either by phone, in group meetings, or in socially distanced meetings):
 - Ask questions on how families are using books and activities.
 - Put aside time to share something exciting and share ideas.
 - Make books: a small budget for markers/paint, scissors, glue and paper/printouts would be needed. Families can contribute with cardboard for covers and string.
- Send audio or text WhatsApp messages to individual families or as a group with encouragement and reminders.
- Encourage families to post their successes to group messaging or social media.
- Establish reading corners at community health posts.
- Establish or expand school/community libraries: investment in books can go further by creating a lending system based at school or with a mobile/waterproof box. This requires identifying a community librarian and supporting his/her work through training, a book register, follow-up support and a stipend if this is not already an identified role. Possible community facilitators who could take on this role include preschool or primary school teachers, parenting facilitators, and adult literacy instructors.

Table 2.1. Considerations of different modalities for the distribution of caregiver orientation

	Requirements	Interactivity	Access to parents with low literacy	Contact	Cost
Home delivery of materials and one-to-one consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires trained personnel to lead one-to-one consultations Not dependent on technology or electricity 	Can be interactive and engaging	Consultation can reinforce messages of a pictorial guide.	Medium	\$\$\$
Group workshops and pick up of materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires trained personnel to lead group workshops Requires caregivers to go to the place of the workshop and participate Not dependent on technology or electricity 	Can be interactive and engaging	Workshop can reinforce messages of a pictorial guide.	High	\$\$
Prerecorded video shared at a partner location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires agreement with partner location Requires having technology to share video with group on partner location Requires caregivers to go to the partner location 	Limited to one-way conversation	Video can reinforce messages of a pictorial guide.	Medium	\$
Delivery of guidance when visiting health center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires cooperation with health centers and caregiver participation in health programs Requires training of individuals providing orientation Not dependent on technology or electricity 	Can be interactive and engaging	Consultation can reinforce messages of a pictorial guide.	Medium	\$
TV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires TV broadcast agreement and the development of materials for TV Requires families accessing electricity, having a TV, and tuning in (making it less accessible for most vulnerable households) Might require cable access (less coverage in remote areas) 	Limited to one-way conversation	TV can reinforce messages of a pictorial guide.	No contact	\$\$\$\$
Radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires radio broadcast agreement Requires families to have a radio, a way to power it, and to tune in at the right time (likely high-access in rural community but strong communications strategy needed to ensure tuning in) Might not be electricity-dependent Low-tech requirements for user, usually no extra cost Reception might not be available in remote settings 	Can be interactive and engaging but often limited to one-way conversation	Radio can reinforce messages of a pictorial guide.	No contact	\$\$
Text and audio messages using mobile phones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires telecom agreement Requires phone ownership (might be accessible even for vulnerable households) Might require phone data Dependent on electricity Low-tech requirements Reception might not be available in remote settings Requires having a list of mobile phone numbers to send messages to 	Can be interactive and engaging but often limited to one-way conversation	Lack of face-to-face guidance. However, radio can reinforce messages of a pictorial guide	No contact	\$\$
Posters and flyers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High reach/access if people go out to read the poster or are delivered a flyer. Might not be accessed in strict COVID-19 closures Not electricity- or technology-dependent 	Often limited to one-way conversation	Lack of face-to-face guidance.	No contact	\$

Source: Adapted from USAID (2020).

2C. IDENTIFYING COUNTRY TOOLS AND GUIDANCE TO ENGAGE CAREGIVERS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S LEARNING

Ideally, caregiver guidance will build on resources that have been developed and tested in the target country. This section provides basic guidance on how to identify country tools to engage caregivers to support children's learning, including the actors to engage with, the steps to follow, the questions to ask and the types of information to search for.

Actors

Although guidance for caregivers is not very easy to find, check with the following actors about existing materials in-country:

- Ministry of Education officials or those in charge of Early Childhood Education programs;
- Publishers;
- Funders (e.g. USAID, NORAD, FCDO) and sponsoring organizations (e.g. Foundations);
- UN agencies engaged in education (e.g. UNESCO and UNICEF);
- Nongovernmental organizations (national and international) or community organizations focused on literacy (e.g. Uwezo for East Africa, Save the Children, World Vision, Plan International, Room to Read) (see Appendix E. Indicative list of organizations working in the field of early literacy for ideas on who to contact); and
- Private schools.

Steps

Start with materials explicitly targeted towards caregivers or community actors to encourage reading at home. These could come in different formats: booklets with general guidance, extra pages in the books distributed to children with specific questions around the story, etc. If your target audience is mostly literate, focus on print materials (this will ease the distribution process).

If relevant materials are not available, search for literacy-related materials from workshops or trainings targeted toward caregivers and other community actors, for example within the context of reading programs, community libraries or home-visiting programs. If you have multiple materials, prioritize interventions designed for delivery for caregivers in the household rather than to professionals in a library or a school.

It is also worth exploring parent or community campaigns focused on topics related to parent engagement with kids in areas other than literacy or in behavioral change. These programs could shed light on useful lessons to apply to the literacy intervention. If materials are not available in your country, search for materials used in countries with similar languages, educational level of caregivers, and penetration of print, radio, TV and internet.

Questions to ask government and partners

- Have there been national, regional or local efforts to encourage literacy that involve caregivers and/or local community actors? If so, are there materials available?
- Are there complementary programs that involve or encourage reading through other means?
 - Interactive Radio Instruction?
 - Radio programs where someone reads a book?
 - Community libraries?
 - TV?

Table 2.2. Types of supporting information to look for

		Caregiver cannot read	Caregiver can read
Delivery Platform	Print	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pictorial images of how to use books with children (Rwanda) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General guidance for encouraging reading (Reading rockets^a, USA³⁷; Colombia³⁸; Global/Sesame³⁹, Global/Literacy Boost⁴⁰; COVID tips on book sharing⁴¹) - Guidance on questions to ask and activities to perform around a specific book (USA^b, Global Storyweaver^c)
	Radio	Stories read on the radio to accompany hard copies (Zambia ⁴²)	
	Mobile phones/ Computer/ Tablet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Text and voice to read along books available online/offline (Global Storyweaver) - Stories read-along designed specifically for android phones (Global Storyweaver 1, 2) - Stories of the GDL available in a mobile app. A personal reading tutor (through AI) helps children understand and improve. Parents often accompany process (Global, Bolo^d) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tips by Texts on how to read sent to parents (UK)^e - SMS messages sent to parents with stories & comprehension questions (Zambia) - Tablets with preloaded digital books delivered to parents & behavioral nudges to increase time on reading implemented (USA, PACT)^f - Facebook campaigns encouraging reading, posting information & rewarding active families (Kyrgyz Republic)^g
	Person	General guidance delivered by community facilitators (Senegal, Global/Literacy Boost) ^h	
	Combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General guidance delivered by local teachers along with a package of written guidance materials, audio guidelines and DVD players (Save the Children Mongolia) - Caregiver training, SMS incentives (giving airtime) and home visits (Kenya EMERGE) - Written guidance on activities reinforced through community and national newspapers, magazines, television, radio stations and regular community-based advocacy (UK Book Start)ⁱ 	

Notes: (a) Reading Rockets, *Reading Tips for Parents of Toddlers* (2008); note that this is available in several languages: Spanish; Arabic; Traditional Chinese; Haitian Creole; Hmong; Korean; Navajo; Russian; Tagalog; and Vietnamese.

(b) Follow these links for examples: Cloudette-RIF Guide; Nesting Quilt-RIF Guide; Tower of Giraffes-RIF Guide. (c) Requires free signup. Some of the guidance/ activities are group-based. (d) Personalized tutor that encourages children to read aloud while providing positive reinforcement when a child reads correctly and corrective feedback when a child does not. Free to use, in 10 languages, works when the user is offline, and is ad free. (e) Covers more subjects than literacy. Evaluation still pending. (f) Behavioral nudges include goal setting, SMS reminders, feedback & recognition. (g) In the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Education and Science launched the Facebook "[Reading Family](#)" campaign. Parents read with their children, post their progress, and the most active ones receive gifts and the "Akurman Uy-buloo" (Erudite Family) title. (h) The flipbook was designed as part of Save the Children's Literacy Boost Community Action Component. As such, contains ideas for all parents to be introduced by facilitators. Since the ideas are written and are designed for facilitators instead of parents, adaptations would be needed. (i) Access

all parental guidance materials in multiple languages (including English, traditional Chinese, Romanian, Welsh, Spanish, Italian, Turkish, Albanian, Arabic, Polish, Slovak, Somali, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Bengali, Czech, Punjabi, French, Urdu and Russian) [here](#).

Some of the initiatives mentioned above are part of larger programs that contain additional components. For instance, the radio intervention described for Zambia in [Table 2.2](#) is part of a broader project (called Makhalidwe Athu, which means “Our Way of Staying”) in which community members help author early grade reading materials by submitting their favorite local stories and folktales through SMS message, voice recording, web form, paper or calling the radio. A literacy expert edits the stories to make them grade-level appropriate and parents receive them through a series of SMS messages along with comprehension questions to ask their children. The program also involved an IVR call-in for questions and oral recording of story; the distribution of hard copies of stories; the reading of the story on the radio; and monthly support meetings by community mobilizers and volunteers. A rigorous impact evaluation of the Makhalidwe Athu project found positive results.⁴³



Photo: ©UNICEF

MONITORING FOR LEARNING

3. MONITORING FOR LEARNING

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are key components of a well-designed project. Tracking project data and sharing results helps implementing teams be more responsive to the needs of children, families, and their communities and provides data to inform decision making and adaptations where necessary to improve the project going forward.

This section will provide guidance to task teams and stakeholders on M&E efforts accompanying Read@Home. Section 3A contains guidance on selecting the right M&E framework and indicators for a given context by determining the main purpose underlying the M&E effort. Section 3B contains guidance on identifying and implementing the right data collection strategies, including: (1) selecting from the different data collection methods available, including remote data collection strategies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; (2) identifying tools for adaptation to specific contexts; and, (3) sampling considerations, piloting tools, and training data collectors. Finally, Section 3C contains guidance on collecting data responsibly.

3A. SELECTING THE RIGHT M&E FRAMEWORK

As mentioned in the introduction, the overall objective of Read@Home is to “deliver reading, learning and play materials to homes, as quickly and efficiently as possible, along with support for parents and others to support children’s learning.” The global Read@Home Theory of Change (see [Figure 3.1](#)) captures some of the short, medium, and long-term outcomes the Read@Home team aims to collect through the roll-out of the initiative, which can be a helpful starting point in developing more specific and targeted M&E questions based on a given country’s priorities and needs. These questions range from relatively simple ones such as, *Did families participating in the program receive materials quickly and efficiently?* to more complex ones such as, *Did students’ reading skills improve over the course of the Read@Home project?*

The Global Theory of Change presented in [Figure 3.1](#) will need to be adapted to different country contexts, depending on the inputs and activities included within the initiative and the way that Read@Home is complementing related, existing interventions. It is important to note, for example, that M&E questions about impact on literacy skills can be used in contexts where Read@Home is part of a larger literacy intervention. Because improving literacy skills usually requires a comprehensive set of interventions, centered on improved literacy instruction, it is unlikely that Read@Home as a stand-alone program will result in measurable improvements in literacy skills.

Determining which questions teams want to answer is the first step in selecting an M&E framework; i.e., the main purpose underlying the M&E efforts. It is important for country teams to think carefully about what aspects of the program they want information on and to collect the corresponding data. Key considerations include these questions:

- What are the project's objectives? What are measures of success for this project?
- Who are the target beneficiaries?
- What are the government's or other stakeholders' objectives around this project?
- How will the data be used?
- What is feasible to undertake, from a budget, timeline, and human resource perspective?

Figure 3.1. Read@Home Global Theory of Change

THE CONTEXT	THE PROJECT: READ@HOME Objective: Deliver reading, learning and play materials to homes, as quickly and efficiently as possible, along with support for parents and others to support children's learning			ITS IMPACT	
PROBLEM ANALYSIS	INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES (Short-, medium-, long-term)	CONTRIBUTION TO SYSTEMIC CHANGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many children are growing up in homes without books and lack opportunities to read at home. • At the peak of global school closures in mid-April 2020, 1.8 billion children were out of school. • The learning crisis which existed before COVID (53% of 10-year olds in low- and middle-income countries living in learning poverty) will deepen. • Inequality in learning will likely increase, as last-mile families are likely to have little access to books and learning materials at home. Families need resources at home to support the learning process, especially during times of crisis. • Read@Home is a key component of system-building that will help countries address learning poverty AND be resilient in the face of future shocks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4 million in funding for the global effort in 2020-2021 to launch this approach across 13 first-wave countries. These funds will largely go toward technical assistance, with procurement and delivery primarily financed by country-level resources. • The team includes expertise in: Bank operations and procurement processes, partnerships within and external to the Bank, child development, home-based learning and parent engagement, and monitoring and evaluation. • Partnership at the global level (e.g., with the Global Book Alliance, Room to Read), local level (e.g., CSOs, NGOs, private sector), as well as within the Bank (e.g., HNP, SPJ) are key. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries: The initiative targets children ages 3-12, as well as their caregivers. • Learning package: In each country, Read@Home will pull together a package of reading materials to be distributed at large scale. These materials will be accompanied by materials to support caregivers to engage in children's learning, aligned with government distance learning programs. These materials will be in mother-tongue, where possible. • Finding innovations and operating flexibly: Innovations in procurement (regional/global approaches, flexibility in rules, and/or new mechanisms such as bulk purchases and reverse auctions) and distribution processes (e.g. through CCT, health) as well as learning packages (e.g. printed and audiobooks, guides, SMS) will be explored. • Monitoring and evaluation tools to track progress and success of program. • Value proposition for countries: (i) Read@Home will deploy global technical experts in a just-in-time fashion increasing the quality of Read@Home packages and rendering book supply chains more efficient; and (ii) the global approach will help bring down costs by improving the quality of procurement processes within and across countries, and finding new distribution approaches. 	<p>In first-wave countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read@Home packages that target last-mile families, in mother tongue where possible. • Accompanying materials for caregivers to engage in children's learning. <p>Innovative procurement processes and distribution mechanisms for the Read@Home packages.</p> <p>Global</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curation of materials in multiple languages. • Evidence on effectiveness of alternative procurement and distribution mechanisms, strategies for caregiver engagement, etc. • Guidance around putting together Read@Home packages (including mapping of and selection from existing reading materials and materials for caregivers), and innovative procurement and distribution mechanisms. 	<p>Short-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In first-wave countries, the Read@Home packages reach last-mile families. • The Read@Home distribution strategy reaches target communities. <p>Medium-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of uptake: children and parents/other caregivers are using the Read @ Home packages. • Evidence of spill-over: books being shared with neighbours, caregivers using skills learned not just with target children but also with other children in community. • Procurement and distribution methods also used for other learning materials (e.g., textbooks) <p>Longer-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target beneficiaries show better pre-literacy skills (e.g., wider vocabulary, print awareness) than comparison groups. • This leads to better literacy skills (both fluency and comprehension) and lower Learning Poverty. • Increased awareness of the importance of books/reading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of quicker, more efficient, and more equitable procurement and distribution mechanisms for teaching and learning materials, which can be used to take materials not only to the homes of children, but also to schools. • Establishment of a budget line in the Ministry of Education or other budgets to systematically provide reading and learning materials to the homes of the most marginalized. • Improvement of the ecosystem for reading and learning materials (e.g. increased demand for teaching and learning materials from families and increased supply of quality materials in local languages).

Three M&E frameworks are described in [Table 3.1](#) below: monitoring, process evaluation, and impact evaluation. Combinations of these three frameworks are likely to be used across the global Read@Home initiative, but individual countries may use only one or two. Decisions on which framework(s) to use will depend on the inputs and activities included and the purpose of the M&E efforts, as mentioned above.

Table 3.1. M&E frameworks

Framework type	Description	Types of tools typically utilized
Monitoring	Typically employed to track basic project outputs (e.g., how many participants attended workshops, or how many books were delivered) on a relatively frequent basis. Monitoring frameworks can be implemented by non-expert enumerators, are cheaper to administer, and take less time to implement. All Read@Home projects should, at a minimum, incorporate a monitoring framework within their M&E efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Brief surveys ✓ Checklists ✓ Brief interviews
Process evaluation	Determines whether program activities have been implemented as intended and resulted in certain outputs. Can be conducted periodically throughout the life of the program. Results of a process evaluation can strengthen the ability to report on reasons for the success (or failure) of a program to produce its intended outcomes, and these data can be used to improve future activities. For more information on conducting process evaluations, see this document .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Checklists ✓ Interviews ✓ Direct observation ✓ Focus group discussions ✓ Attendance roster ✓ Participant intake forms
Impact evaluation	<p>Looks at whether the program was successful in achieving intended outcomes—this is also called proof of concept. An impact evaluation is more rigorous, often requiring comparison of at least two groups, and assessment of outcomes at two different points in time to gauge change or improvement.</p> <p>Impact evaluations take more time to develop and administer, are more costly, and require skilled and well-trained enumerators to ensure high-quality data. Impact evaluations are typically not implemented as frequently as monitoring efforts.</p> <p>Teams may consider carrying out an impact evaluation for a standalone R@H project or may consider adding R@H indicators to a broader/existing impact evaluation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Direct assessments of child outcomes ✓ Surveys ✓ Interviews ✓ Focus group discussions ✓ Observation tools

Once the M&E framework has been identified, along with key questions the team would like to answer, teams can then begin thinking about the indicators to include in their M&E framework. [Table 3.2](#) in the next section provides a sample of short, medium, and long-term output and outcome indicators for Read@Home projects. Teams should note that this is an illustrative list, and that questions and indicators will need to be developed based on specific needs, target populations, and national objectives.^k

3B. IDENTIFYING THE RIGHT DATA COLLECTION STRATEGIES

Data collection methods

Under normal circumstances, data are typically collected in person. This might still be possible in some contexts, particularly for monitoring efforts, respecting local social-distancing protocols. For example, some countries might deliver the Read@Home packages at schools, early childhood education (ECE) centers, or other community centers and spaces where families come to collect food or other resources. During that time, frontline staff could ask brief (5-10 min) questions from a print or online form. Additional guidance on in-person data collection can be found [here](#).

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teams may need to employ [remote data collection methods](#), such as by telephone/mobile phone, by SMS, through Interactive Voice Response, and through online survey. Each of these is discussed in turn, next.

Telephone/mobile phone is the simplest way to reach target populations remotely. Survey questions can be read out loud to the participants and marked on a survey form by the data collector and later transcribed electronically, or if devices such as laptops or tablets are available can be input directly into the device. This method has some limitations, as it requires families to have a landline or a mobile phone (leading to the information collected not being representative of the whole group of beneficiaries), makes rapport-building more difficult, is difficult for young children, and has higher levels of nonresponse than in-person surveys, which may bias the resulting sample.

SMS data collection can be used for populations that have access to mobile phones. For countries implementing a Track and Trace system as part of Read@Home, this system could also be used for the monitoring of short-term indicators such as book delivery. This method is best for short surveys (5 to 7 questions) and when used to collect simple information like whether materials were received, the date they were received, and the number of books received. This is a relatively low-cost data collection method, but it is limited to literate populations who have mobile phones and can incur costs for the mobile phone owner. SMS data collection is also known for a low response rate, and surveys must be quite short in order to yield helpful data.

^k Additional guidance on research methods can be found [here](#).

Interactive Voice Response (IVR) is an automated phone-based technology that allows participants to access information, hear questions, and provide responses via pre-recorded messages, speech recognition, and touch-tone keypad selection. Like SMS, it is best suited for shorter surveys. IVR costs more to implement per unit than SMS, but response rates tend to be higher than SMS. This method will allow nonliterate families to participate, as it utilizes audio recording, but depending on the mobile carrier it may incur costs for the mobile phone owner.

Online surveys can be created for communities that have access to the internet/Wi-Fi using SurveyMonkey and other local tools and sent to participants via email or text message to complete. It is not likely that communities participating in Read@Home will have access to the internet at home or on their phones, but where there are computer centers in communities or at libraries, this method may work. It is important to note, however, that using this method might increase the risk of bias in the data collected, as only those with minimum levels of digital literacy will be able to engage. Further, it is likely to result in relatively high levels of nonresponse, with primarily participants highly engaged with the program being responding to the survey. As such, data collected may not be fully representative of all participants in the program.

In short, remote data collection is challenging, and it sees lower response rates and greater attrition amongst respondents when compared to in-person data collection. Many factors contribute to this, from the perceived 'burden' surveys impose in terms of time, to the type of tool used and how questions are framed. When a remote method is used, [some simple strategies to improve response rates include these:](#)

- Use languages that participants know.
- Respect participants' time (make their time commitment as small as possible).
- Be flexible with deadlines and when scheduling interviews/focus group discussions.
- Follow-up with participants if there is no response.
- Send reminders ahead of planned data collection (e.g., via phone, SMS).
- Make participation easy by using simple language and limited questions.
- Offer incentives for participation-additional air-time on cell phones for example or a printed certificate of participation.

Data collection tools

Appendix E contains the core Read@Home monitoring tool. It captures key Read@Home output and outcome indicators such as whether families received the Read@Home package,¹ children's use of materials in the Read@Home package, and parental/caregiver engagement with children.

In addition, [Table 3.2](#) below contains sample tools and methods that can be used to collect data for the short, medium, and long-term output and outcome indicators for Read@Home projects. Country teams that are tracking engagement with minority and marginalized groups, such as children with disabilities, may consider including questions from the [Washington Group/UNICEF Module on Child Functioning](#), which helps identify children with disabilities who are at greater risk for exclusion. The questions cover many domains, including vision, hearing, and mobility; communication and comprehension; and relationships and emotions.

All measurement tools mentioned here will need to be adapted to local contexts and translated before being implemented as part of data collection efforts. Finally, before collecting data, it is important for teams to think about how to disaggregate data for different groups and indicators. For example, most data are disaggregated by gender and socioeconomic levels, to track how the project impacts girls and boys and those at varying income levels, particularly the most disadvantaged.

Projects working with vulnerable populations may want to analyze how elements of equity and language impact children, for example those with disabilities and those who speak minority languages. Projects working in refugee settings where both refugees and host community members are receiving services may want to disaggregate their data by these factors. Read@Home project teams may also be interested in looking at differences between children whose parents can read versus those whose parents cannot. Teams should ensure that they collect the demographic data needed in order to enable disaggregation of results by the target comparison groups.

¹ In the core monitoring tool, this is measured through items focused on the availability of reading materials in the home. In contexts where the Read@Home package will be identified as such, teams should use the items listed under the Supplementary Items section, which directly asks whether families received the Read@Home package.

Table 3.2. Sample indicators and tools for data collection

Evaluation duration	M&E Question	Outcome	Indicators	Data Collection Method	Sample tool
Short-term	Did families receive Read@Home materials in an efficient and timely manner?	<i>Families received materials</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of R@H packages delivered # of books in the package # of parental engagement handouts received -Time it took for book package to reach families (e.g., from start of procurement process, from when books are ordered, from when books leave distribution centers – depending on which aspect of the book chain is of most interest) -Condition of book package - Were materials appropriate for the ages and reading levels of the children in the household (see the Book Selection section of the manual above)? -Were materials provided in a language children know? - Did the materials cater to children with disabilities? 	Survey administered to mother or father in person or over the phone or via SMS (potentially via Track and Trace)	See Material Delivery survey , pg 88 in Appendix G: Sample monitoring tools
	Were procurement methods efficient and cost-effective?	<i>Procurement methods were efficient and cost-effective</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Type of procurement used -Technical specifications used -Timeline of procurement, from print ready files to delivery to country -Match between books ordered (quantity and specifications) and books received - Timeline of distribution from arrival in country to 90% delivered to homes -Unit cost of distribution -Use of track and trace system (y/n) -% of locations receiving correct quantity of books on time -% of children receiving correct quantity of books on time -% of locations/children with correct quantity of books three months post-distribution 	Checklist for country teams to fill out after materials are delivered	* Country teams and government counterparts may have procurement departments that have internal policies around procurement. Illustrative indicators are included here but it is recommended that teams work with their procurement specialists to develop more specific indicators and tools.
	Did teams select a variety of books across level and genre?	<i>Families received books across a variety of levels and genres</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of titles in a language children know # of titles in language of instruction, if different # of titles representing diverse populations, including people with disabilities # of non-fiction titles # of titles in reading level 1, 2, 3, etc. # of titles written by local authors # of titles written by international authors # of titles taken from online repositories (GBA, Pratham Books, etc.) 	Checklist for country teams to fill out per family who received Read@Home materials	See Book Selection Checklist , pg 89 in Appendix G: Sample monitoring tools Appendix G. Sample monitoring tools

	Was the information about using Read@Home materials delivered effectively?	<i>Families used materials effectively</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -# of information sessions held -type of information session held -parent satisfaction with information session (e.g., with location, with date and time, with facilitator) -clarity of content (e.g., content shared during information session, handout given to parents) 	Interview for parents. Can be given at the end of an information session, as an evaluation of the session. If information session is conducted remotely, survey can be conducted via SMS/phone.	See Process Level Evaluation , pg 90 in Appendix G: Sample monitoring tools Appendix G. Sample monitoring tools
Medium-term	Did parental engagement improve?	<i>Parental engagement improved</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -# of days/week parents read to target children -# of literacy activities done in a week with target children -# of days/week parents read to other children in the household -# of literacy activities done in a week with other children in the household -% change in reading/week -% change in literacy activities/week -%change in confidence level -% change in enjoyment level 	Survey for parents conducted at two different points (at least) during the intervention period administered in person or via SMS/phone	Appendix G: Sample monitoring tools see: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paternal Engagement Survey, pg 91 - UNICEF MICS Parental Involvement, pg 92 - Massachusetts Early Care and Education, pg 9104 HOME surveys-National Longitudinal Survey of Youth
	Did parents' knowledge, attitude and practice toward books and reading improve?	<i>Parents' knowledge, attitude and practice toward books and reading improved</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % change in reading frequency with children % increase in parent's helping children with reading % change in attitude towards reading at home % change in knowledge about importance of reading at home 	KAP survey for R@H participating parents conducted at two different points during the intervention period administered in person or via phone	See Sample KAP Survey for Parents - Mureke Duson , pg 105 in Appendix G: Sample monitoring tools
	Did children's attitude toward books and reading improve?	<i>Children's attitudes toward books improved</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % change in perceptions about reading % change in frequency of reading % change in confidence in reading % change in enjoyment level in reading 	KAP survey for children conducted at two different points during the intervention period administered in person or via SMS/phone	Appendix G: Sample monitoring tools see <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KAP Survey for Children, pg 109 - Sample KAP Survey for Children – Mureke Dusome, pg 110
	Have community attitudes towards reading changed?	<i>Change in community attitudes towards reading</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % change in knowledge about importance of reading books outside of school % change in attitude towards reading % change in attitude towards libraries % change in knowledge about engagement with children on reading in the home 	KAP survey for community members not directly involved in R@H efforts conducted at two different points during the intervention period administered in person or via SMS/phone	See Community KAP Survey , pg 114 in Appendix G: Sample monitoring tools

Long-term*	Are children able to read letters/words/sentences (depending on age)	<i>Improvement in letter, word, sentence reading</i>	% of letters, words, sentences read correctly (Data disaggregated by gender, language, disability, socio-economic status and other variables as per country teams' priorities)	Baseline and endline assessment (EGRA or ASER) developed, piloted, and administered delivered to children in person.	See Grade 2 Word Recognition Assessment , pg 115 in Appendix G: Sample monitoring tools
	Did children's reading skills improve?	<i>Student reading skills improved.</i>	% of letters words, sentences identified correctly % change in fluency # of children who can read gradelevel text % change in comprehension	"Core" EGRA or ASER-type tool developed, piloted, and administered to children at baseline and endline	Early Grades Reading Assessment (EGRA) UWEZO Learning assessment tool ASER Literacy and Math tools People's Action for Learning Network citizen-led assessment tools
	Did community reading increase?	<i>Community reading increased</i>	# of community libraries established # of books checked out weekly from community libraries # of books purchased through community funds	One on one pre- and post-interviews (or a focus group discussion) with members of the community familiar with the R@H project (school teacher, local NGO worker, member of a religious group, PTA member, etc.); review of library records pre and post	See Community Reading Interview , pg 116 in Appendix G: Sample monitoring tools

*Reading assessments should only be conducted if Read@Home is part of a broader literacy intervention.

Implementing data collection

Data collection requires planning, training, and organization. Teams will need to train enumerators, select a sample, and develop and pilot tools, among other important activities. The sections below provide guidance around these areas. It is recommended that country teams work with M&E specialists and counterparts to plan the implementation of data collection.

Pilot testing. Tools must be developed and pilot-tested before the full data collection effort can be rolled out. Pilot testing is used to test the validity and reliability of the tools being used as well as testing the logistics of implementing the tools (cost, time, procedures, any complications). The sample used for piloting should be as similar to the target population as possible.

Results from the pilot tests should not be used as data for the project; the objective of the pilot is to check for any discrepancies within the tools and make changes. For example, when administering a parent questionnaire, if parents find it difficult to understand the wording of some questions or find the questionnaire to be too long, the team should make the necessary modifications (e.g., change/simplify terms used, prioritize items for inclusion) so that these issues do not arise during data collection. Enumerators will be essential in this process, particularly for one-on-one surveys or focus group discussions, as their interaction with the participants will provide details on what changes to make when the tools are rolled out to the target population

Selecting a sample. Sampling is a critical component of data collection. Determining the right sample and then selecting a sample that is representative of the population of interest increases confidence that your data accurately capture the outcomes and impacts of your program. Choosing a sample that is too small or that is not representative may lead to spurious results and may preclude you from drawing firm conclusions about the success of your program.

There are many different sampling methods, so it is important to engage a sampling expert, particularly if implementing an impact evaluation. Some initial guidance on sampling can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Enumerator training. Enumerators are a critical component of data collection. Criteria for selecting enumerators should include:

- Language proficiency in the language in which tools will be administered
- Prior experience conducting assessments and collecting data
- Experience working with the target population, and
- Experience and proficiency using technology for data collection.

It is also helpful to select more enumerators than may be required, because some may drop out and others may not meet selection criteria. Training topics for enumerators should include:

- Goals of the Read@Home project, including target population
- In-depth review of all tools that will be administered in the format they will be given (paper, electronic, over the phone, via SMS)

- Proper communication with community members, including what language to be used, and
- Practice administering the tools to trainers, other trainees, and representatives of the target population.

An important area related to performing one-on-one assessments is seeing how well assessors agree with one another (inter-rater reliability). In an ideal world, assessors would mark responses exactly the same way (i.e. if two assessors observed the same behavior/situation/response, they would all fill out the questionnaire in exactly the same way). However, assessors can sometimes disagree about how to score an answer. The piloting and training process should help assessors to consistently agree with each other. Nonetheless, it is important to continuously measure the rate of agreement between assessors, as this is a critical measure of quality data collection. A protocol on assessing inter-rater reliability can be found on page 89 of the [EGRA Toolkit](#).

In addition to the guidance above, if country teams are considering the use of an EGRA or ASER to assess reading outcomes, it is highly recommended that teams follow the guidance in the [EGRA Toolkit](#). Guidance for the use of ASER-type tools can be found [here](#). Finally, the [SIEF ECD Measurement Toolkit](#) is also a useful resource for identifying potential measurement tools and for guidance on implementing data collection efforts.

3C. COLLECTING DATA RESPONSIBLY AND SHARING FINDINGS

Collecting data

Data collection should be approached with sensitivity, because many communities may be unfamiliar with data collection protocols, utility, and objectives. In some cases, icebreakers and other types of games to gain trust and make participants comfortable may need to be conducted prior to collecting data. Furthermore, teams should be sensitive of the time families will be spending on providing data for the Read@Home project; this is time away from work and other family obligations. It is important to have clear goals for the data collection effort and to only collect data that is essential and will be used.

To the extent possible, project teams should adhere to national or internationally recognized ethical standards for collection, maintenance, and reporting of personal data and information. Consider whether an ethics review by a qualified third-party is required.

Other factors to keep in mind during data collection include these:

- Family willingness to participate is key; no caregiver or child should be forced to participate in data collection efforts.
- Before starting the process, provide an orientation to community members on goals of the project, why data is being collected, the type of data that will be collected, and the method utilized and how it will be used.

- Depending on the context, verbal consent may suffice. However, whenever possible, signed waivers should be collected from each family member that will be participating in data collection efforts and from the parent or guardian of children under the legal age of consent.

In addition, if in-person data collection is carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic, responsible data collection includes the adherence to local safety protocols, such as the use of personal protective equipment, appropriate social distancing, limiting the number of people in an enclosed space, providing hand sanitizer, and so on.

Sharing findings

Responsible data collection also includes ensuring that the collected data are useful for government and ministries of education, development partners, community stakeholders, and the target beneficiaries themselves. This implies sharing the findings with relevant stakeholders once the evaluation has concluded. Data can be shared with these stakeholders in different ways, as follows.

For family members, the most useful format may be via a *town hall style meeting* where project staff provide a summary of the project's most pertinent and relevant findings, including data related to family engagement and children's reading skills. It would be helpful to include time for discussion and feedback, particularly around lower outputs/outcomes and to see parental and community input on how to improve the project going forward.

During the COVID 19 pandemic, in-person contact is being limited. But results can still be shared *remotely*. For example, key achievements can be aired on TV, family testimonials and success stories can be broadcast over radio, and stories can be disseminated through a website or social media pages (being sure to use languages and technologies most appropriate to the target population).

Consent. The dissemination methods listed above can also be useful in reaching a wider audience, that is, beyond the target beneficiaries. However, it is important that the families involved provide consent for their stories to be shared.

For policymakers, results could be shared through *briefs, reports, or PowerPoint presentations* in order to influence local policy. These materials can be developed to illustrate the project's trajectory from inception to closing, highlighting key achievements, lessons learned, challenges and how they were mitigated, and most importantly, policy implications.

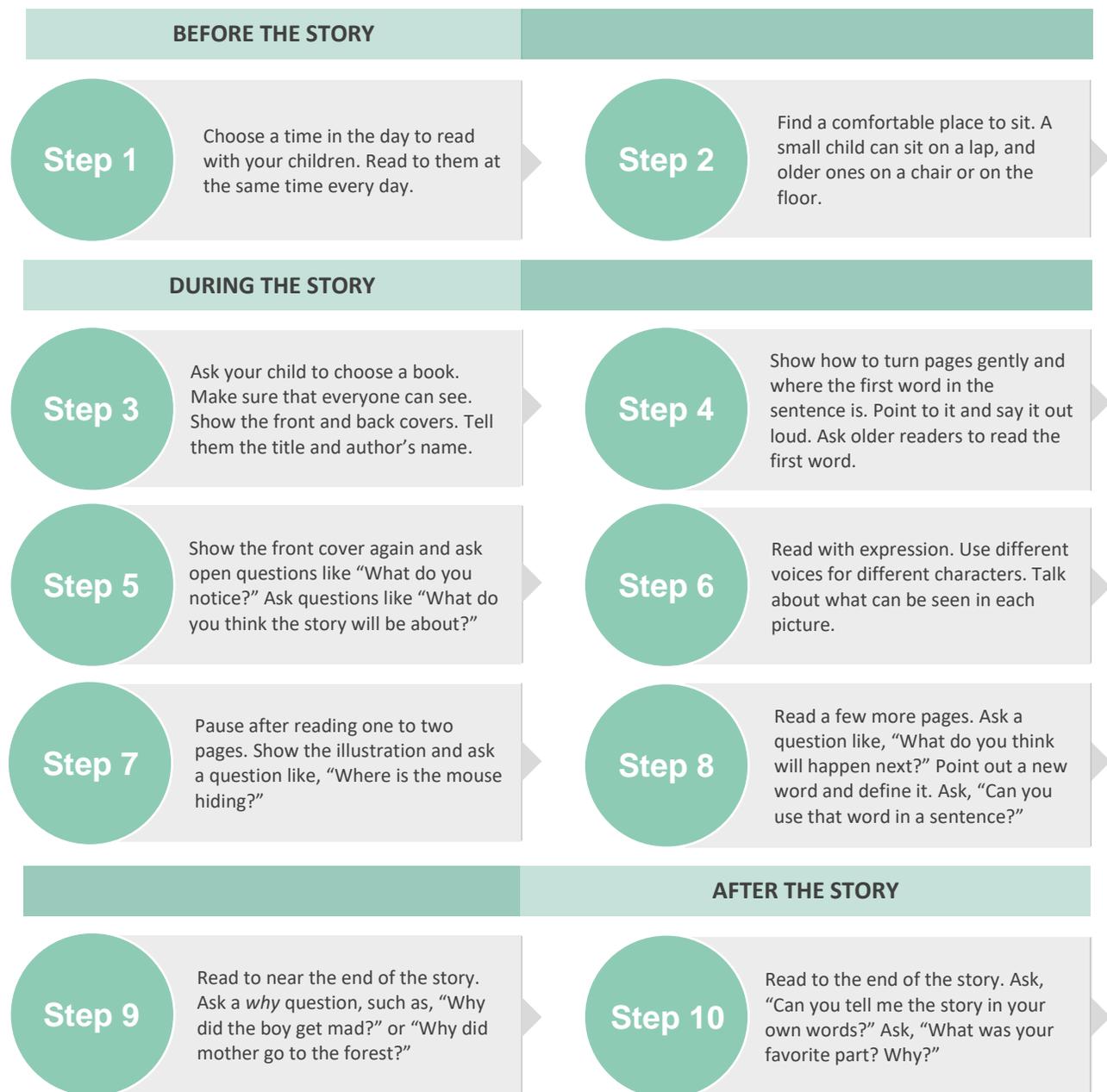
For practitioners and researchers. Finally, depending on the type of data collected, project results can be shared at education or literacy *conferences* being conducted locally or internationally.



APPENDICES

APPENDICES

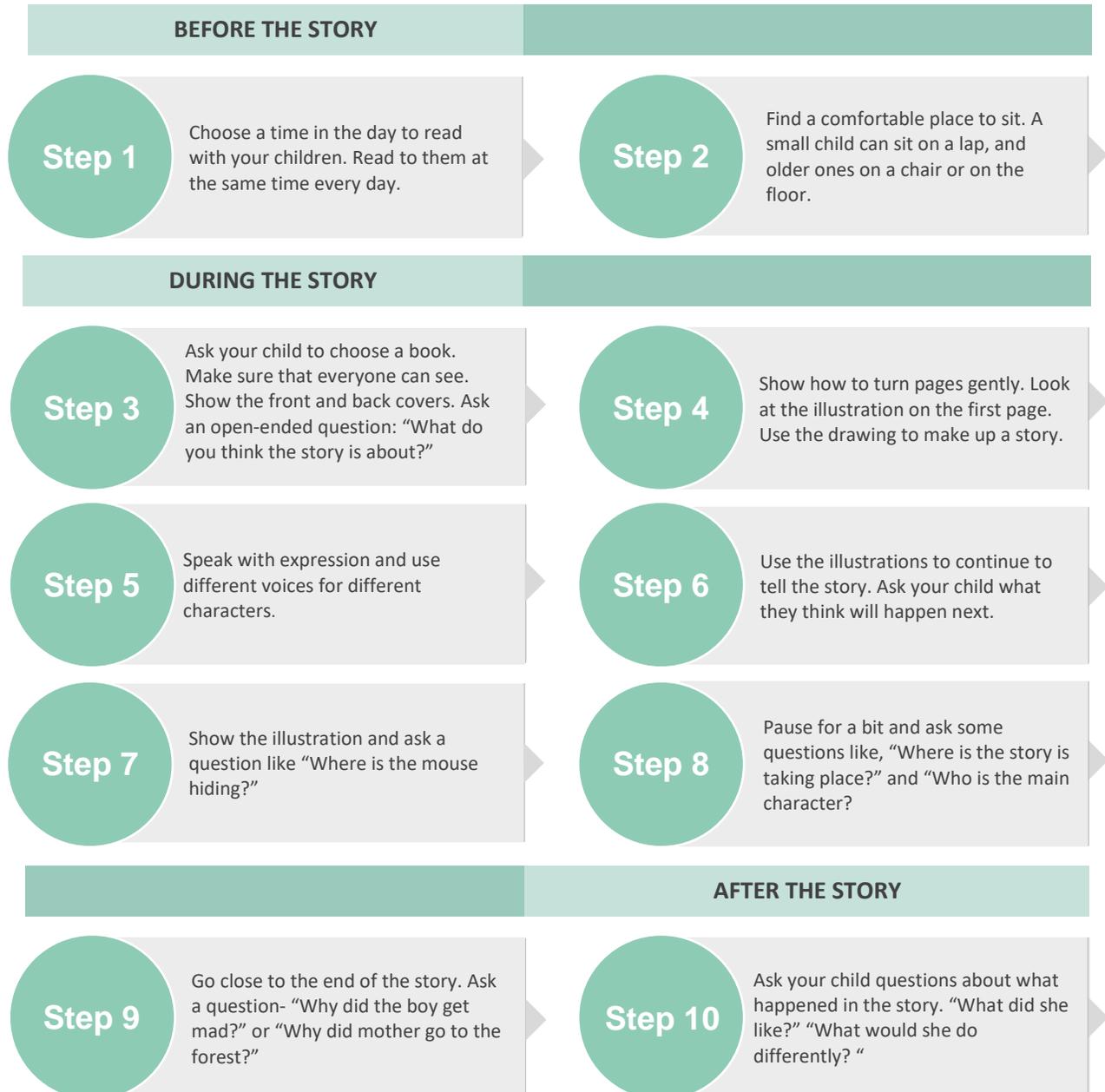
APPENDIX A. SAMPLE HANDOUT ON READING TOGETHER WITH CHILDREN



Adapted from: *Enjoying books together at home, Rwandan Children's Book Initiative.*

APPENDIX B. SAMPLE MESSAGES ON READING TOGETHER WITH LOW-LITERATE CAREGIVERS

Low-literacy caregivers can also read together with their child. Instead of reading the story out loud, they can tell the story using pictures. Sample key messages are included here, which can be delivered through illustrations or audio messages by radio or phone.



Adapted from: [Enjoying books together at home, Rwandan Children's Book Initiative.](#)

APPENDIX C. SAMPLE HANDOUT FOR CAREGIVERS ON ACTIVITIES WITHOUT A STORY/TEXT

<p>Sing a song (Purpose: Build vocabulary)</p>	<p>Choose a familiar tune and ‘sing’ about an activity or topic. Ask children to suggest other ideas that could be added to the song. They may also be able to suggest some rhyming words or words that start with the same sound to add interest to the song.</p> <p>Examples: A song about cutting firewood or other chores</p> <p>For older children: Songs can be a good way to remember key information. Example: Children can make up a song about food groups in health or weather events in science.</p>
<p>What doesn’t belong? (Purpose: Build thinking skills)</p>	<p>Gather 4 objects. 3 of them have something in common such as: color, shape or use. The 4th one does not belong to the group. Explain to the student that there is something similar about all these objects, but one of them is a little different. Ask them to pick up the object that is different and tell you why they chose it.</p> <p>Example: A plate, a cup, a spoon and a pencil. There are 3 objects that we use for eating and 1 that isn’t used, so the pencil would not belong to the group.</p> <p>After the child selects an object and tells why it doesn’t belong to the group, reverse the roles: the child sets up a group of objects and the parent chooses an object and explains their choice.</p>
<p>Tell me a story (Purpose: Develop and express ideas)</p>	<p>Put 4-6 different child-safe objects in a bag/box. Ask your child—without looking—to pick out an object (such as a stick). Use the object as a key character or object in an invented story. Take turns so everyone gets to choose an item and add their ideas to the story.</p> <p>Example: (Using a stick) ... “Long ago in a village like this one, there lived a small boy who had to pick up sticks every day. He looked near and far to find enough sticks to carry home.” (Adding a hat:) “On his way, he saw a hat lying on the ground. ...”</p> <p>Variation: Instead of collecting objects, children can take turns to suggest the next object for the story – examples: a cow, lightning, fire ... This can allow for greater variation in story ideas.</p> <p>For older children: Ask the speaker questions about their story to challenge them to create the most engaging story they can! Example questions: Why did he do that? What did he use? Was he successful?</p>

Source: Adapted from Global Reading Network 2020. Available at [COVID-19 Reading Comprehension Guidance: Tips for Parents and Caregivers](#).

APPENDIX D. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

1. ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S EMERGENT LITERACY SKILLS

Talk to your child

Talking to your child builds confidence, calms them down, and gives them a sense of security. Babies love the sound of their parents' voice. Try the following activities with your children:

Babies and toddlers

- Point out your baby's eyes, ears, nose, and mouth.
- Count your baby's fingers and toes out loud.
- Imitate your baby's babbles and coos.
- Point out objects around the house and name them.
- Explain what you are doing when your baby is with you. E.g., say "Now we will go outside and feed the cows. This is hay, it is what cows eat."
- Take your toddler outside. Point out the different colors you see. Ask your child to show you something that is red.
- Involve your toddler in your chores. Name the objects you are using. E.g., say, "This is a bucket", "this is water", "this is soap."
- Talk to your toddler while cooking a meal. E.g., say, "First I will wash the rice, next I will soak it, and then I will put it on the stove."

School-age children

- Start each day by telling your school-age child what tasks you need to complete. End the day by talking about what you were able to complete.
- Ask your school-age child how their day went.
- Ask your child what the favorite part of their school day was.
- Ask open ended questions-ones that don't have a right or wrong answer-about a topic that your child will be interested in.
- Ask your child to tell you about something new they learned at school.
- Ask your child to retell a story that he has read.

Sing songs

Singing is a fun way to develop language skills. Children love to hear their parents and caregivers sing and participate in a sing-along. Songs have rhythm and rhyme and new words for children to learn. Singing builds confidence and helps children express themselves. You can sing all kinds of songs:

- Common nursery rhymes like “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.” Use the actions for different words in the song, like *star*, *up*, *sky*, and *diamond*.
- Popular and well-known songs that are played on the radio and are age appropriate.
- Folk songs that are well known in your context.
- The national anthem or other patriotic songs.
- Religious songs like hymns or songs learned in church, mosque, or temple.
- Make up songs with your children.

Tell a story

Stories are a great way to develop language and literacy skills. Babies and toddlers will love to hear stories from their parents and caregivers. Stories don’t have to be complex or long. The best stories are those that have an element of suspense, interesting characters, and some humor. Make a routine of telling stories at the same time-before bed-to give children something to look forward to. After telling the story, ask children who their favorite character was, what their favorite part was, and if they were telling the story what they would have done differently.

Play games

Games can be a fun and engaging way to interact with children and promote emergent literacy skills. The following games can be followed by parents who cannot read across all language groups:

- **Rhyming:** Parent says a word and child says a new word that rhymes. For example: *can*, *ban*, *man*, *Fran*, *Jan*.
- **Name, place, animal, thing:** Pick a letter of the alphabet. Think of a name, a place, an animal and a thing that starts with that letter. For example, with the letter **S**, a **name** is *Sulaiman*, a **place** is *Somalia*, an **animal** is a *spider*, and a **thing** is *sugar*. Try all the letters of the alphabet!
- **Outside:** When you are outside ask your child to point out all of the things she can see that start with the letter A. Then work through the alphabet.
- **Opposite/same:** Tell your child a story. Pick a word from the story and ask for its opposite. Ask for another word that means the same.
- **What am I?** Gather a few everyday items like a leaf, pencil, or spoon, in a bag. Show the items to your child one at a time and ask them to describe the object using different adjectives. For example, a metal spoon is shiny, metallic, cold, hard, and long.
- **I Spy:** Choose an item in the room and give a brief description of the item. Ask your child to guess what it is. For example, *I spy with my little eye*, something that is round, sweet and delicious. What am I? (A mango).
- **Concentration:** Choose a category, like fruits, and have your child take turns saying the names of different fruits as fast as they can.

- **Line by line:** Take turns making up a story line by line. One person starts and the other person adds on. Ask your child to write each sentence down to create her own story book. Put the story book in your home library.

The following games can be followed by parents who can read:

- **Last letter:** Choose a word from a book you have read and say the word out loud. Ask your child to identify the last letter in that word and to say a word that starts with the last letter. For example, *Glad. Dream. Marble. Elephant.*
- **Antonyms:** While reading a story, choose a few words whose meaning your child knows. Ask them to define the word. Then ask them to name its antonym or opposite.
- **Anagrams:** Choose a word from a book that the child knows. Ask your child to make new words from that word. For example, from the word 'bungalow' we can make the words *bun, glow, gal, ban, bag, low, law, and blow.*
- **Fill in the blanks:** Copy some sentences from a book you are reading. Include a word in each sentence that is missing. Ask your child to choose the best word to complete the sentence. For example, "It was _____ outside so I took an umbrella." (*raining*)
- **Make a list:** Name items that you need from the store and have your child write them down. Check to see that the words are spelled correctly.
- **Make a dictionary:** When reading out loud, ask your child to write down new vocabulary on small pieces of paper. Later work together to define the words and write them down. Create a dictionary of new words and put it in your home library.

2. STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT ADVANCED READERS^M

Advanced readers also need parental support to improve their literacy skills. In this section, we present comprehension and vocabulary strategies for this target group, as well as sample questions that can be used during a read-aloud.

Comprehension strategies

1. Re-tell the story.
2. Summarize the text in writing.
3. Draw a picture or diagram to illustrate the story or text.
4. Re-create the story as a comic book.
5. Write comprehension questions on the story. Read the questions out loud and ask a younger or older sibling or caregiver to answer the questions.

^M Adapted from *Community strategies for promoting literacy, Save the Children* and *12 ways to support language development for infants and toddlers, National Association for the Education of Young Children*

6. Re-tell the story from the point of view of one of the characters, i.e. as if the character were telling the story.
7. Act out the story.

Vocabulary strategies

1. Act out unknown words.
2. Make an illustrated dictionary of new words-write the word, draw it, and make up a definition.
3. Find synonyms for newly learned words.
4. Find antonyms for newly learned words.
5. Look for newly learned words in different kinds of text--newspapers, billboards, labels, etc.
6. Make anagrams with newly learned vocabulary words. For example: ARGUMENT > argue, grunt, rue, ran, rag, rat, tar, ten, rent, etc.

Questions to ask during a read-aloud

There are three main types of questions that can be asked when engaging in a read aloud: literal questions, inferential questions, or evaluative questions.

Literal questions. The most basic questions that ask children to recall simple facts from the text. In the popular children’s nursery rhyme “Mary had a little lamb,” an example of a literal question is, “What kind of animal did Mary have?” or “What is the name of the girl in the rhyme?” Other examples of literal questions include:

- What is the title of the text?
- Who is the text describing?
- Where did the event take place?
- When did the event take place?
- What is the name of the main character?

Inferential questions. Inferential questions are more challenging than literal questions. Making an inference involves using facts, events, images, or other explicit information stated in a text to understand and explain what is not stated.

An example of inferential comprehension is as follows: *Isabel is walking into her house with her mother. When she comes inside, she hears people singing happy birthday. What do you think happened?* If a student can read this passage and answer: “Isabel’s friends arranged a surprise birthday party for her,” she has demonstrated inferential comprehension. Examples of inferential questions include:

- Why did the event happen?
- Why do you think...?
- What if...?
- What does _____(word) mean?

Evaluative questions. This is the most advanced type of question that can be asked. Evaluative questions ask children to use evidence from the text to analyze and make judgments about the text. There are multiple correct answers to an evaluative question, so long as a student can back up their opinion with facts from the text.

Here is one example: *Deepa goes to the market. She selects different vegetables, fruits, and rice. She has two large bags to carry home. At home, she washes all her produce and then takes a nap.* Based on this text, a possible evaluative question is: *Do you think Deepa should have taken a nap?* A child could say “Deepa was very tired after doing her chores, so yes, she should take a nap.” or “No, Deepa still had more work to finish and shouldn’t have taken a nap.” Both answers would be correct because they are based on facts from the text. Examples of evaluative questions include:

- How would you feel if...?
- How is the life of the person in the text different from your life?
- What would you have done differently if you were the character?

APPENDIX E. INDICATIVE LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF EARLY LITERACY

Organization's Name	Website	Countries Covered	Brief Description/Special Skills
Africa			
ADEA	http://www.adeanet.org/	Sub-Saharan Africa. The steering committee of the working group includes Ministries of Education in Congo-Brazzaville, Guinea, Niger, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Mozambique	The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) is a forum for policy dialogue on education. Its Working Group on Books and Learning Materials works extensively on issues pertaining to literacy, publishing, the use of mother-tongue languages, and the importance of national book policies. The Working Group page can be found at http://www.adeanet.org/en/working-groups/books-and-learning-materials .
African Storybook	http://www.africanstorybook.org	Piloted in Kenya, South Africa, Lesotho and Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Cameroon, DRC, Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Namibia. More countries added later.	Saide's African Storybook initiative provides openly licensed stories for use, and tools for the translation and creation of stories, which are in turn openly licensed.
Book Dash	http://bookdash.org/	South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, and Esuatini	Book Dash is a South African nonprofit volunteer organization, established in 2014 as a project among friends who wanted to use their publishing skills to create accessible, well-written, easily translatable storybooks. Book Dash creates content by hosting events where a crew of creative professionals get together for twelve hours to create openly licensed storybooks.
CODE	https://code.ngo	Canada, Mali, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ghana	CODE is a Canadian NGO focused on advancing literacy and education in some of the world's regions in greatest need. CODE establishes engaging learning environments through the development and publishing of locally authored and designed children books, training teachers and teacher-librarians, resourcing libraries, and distributing high-quality reading materials. CODE works with affiliates in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania.
eKitabu	https://www.ekitabu.com/	Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ghana	Digital books, including sign language books for Kenya
Mango Tree	https://www.mangotreeelitlab.org/	Uganda +	Mango Tree Literacy Lab is a Ugandan NGO, based in Lira in northern Uganda, dedicated to promoting reading, writing, teaching and publishing in African languages. Mango Tree Literacy Lab provides African educators with teaching tools and methods that make literacy instruction effective and fun. Mango Tree Literacy Lab creates and prints books in Leblango, so children have stories that remind them of their own lives.

Organization's Name	Website	Countries Covered	Brief Description/Special Skills
Molteno	https://www.molteno.co.za/	South Africa (methodology used in Angola, Botswana, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia)	The Molteno Institute for Language and Literacy (MILL), an NGO based in South Africa, produces innovative, research-based language and literacy learning and teaching materials in South Africa's indigenous African languages. It creates training courses that incorporate modern teaching methodologies, models good classroom practice, and provide for classroom monitoring and support. MILL shares all its educational resources and content freely under a Creative Commons license.
NaliBali Trust	https://www.nalibali.org/about-us	South Africa	Nal'ibali (isiXhosa for "here's the story") is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. The program has created reading clubs, trained people, created and distributed multilingual books, audiostories, supplements, story cards and reading activities.
OMAES	http://www.omaes.org/	Mali and neighboring Sahelian countries	Books and mobile libraries
Tostan	https://www.tostan.org/	Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal, and The Gambia	Adult literacy; some materials for children
VVBO	https://www.vvob.org/	Cambodia, DR Congo, Ecuador, Rwanda, South Africa, Suriname, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Belgium, Zimbabwe	Belgian aid, working on TaRL approaches in Zambia
Asia			
Asia Foundation	https://asiafoundation.org/	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pacific Islands, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam	Books, including books in sign language in the Pacific
Pratham/Pratham Books/Storyweaver	https://www.pratham.org/ https://prathambooks.org/ https://storyweaver.org.in/	India	All aspects of reading instruction, civil society assessment, book development software and extensive book repository. StoryWeaver is a digital repository of openly licensed multilingual stories for children from Pratham Books. The platform allows users to create, print and translate stories. Although Storyweaver launched with a focus on books in Indian languages, it is now a platform for stories in languages from all over the world.

Organization's Name	Website	Countries Covered	Brief Description/Special Skills
Rochester Institute of Tech-Nat'l Tech Institute for the Deaf	https://www.rit.edu/ntid/	Philippines	Developed an open-source software (https://deafworldaroundyou.org/Stories) that enables communities to create literacy content in local and national sign languages to be shared via an open-content digital library of folktales. Digital libraries will be viewable from any web browser, can be hosted locally on Linux-based computers and mobile devices, and remixed by individuals (including children) with simple text and video editing tools.
Benetech/ Bookshare	https://www.bookshare.org/cms/	India	Makes reading materials accessible to children by adding Marathi human-narrated audio capabilities to Bookshare, the world's largest digital accessible library. Primary school students who are blind/low vision were provided with accessible Marathi educational content to listen to on low-cost audio devices in conjunction with reading braille. Teachers were trained to use the Bookshare platform and schools were visited weekly by a local "Story Auntie" to encourage reading and inspire students.
Europe and Central Asia			
International Step by Step Foundation (ISSA)	https://www.issa.nl/	Working with 92 associations in Europe and Central Asia.	Reading books and materials for teachers and parents to support reading for children ages 3-8 years.
Middle East and North Africa			
Asafeer Education Technologies	https://3asafeer.com/index.php	Dubai, Jordan, Lebanon, UAE +	Books, illustrations, and templates for Arabic speakers
Little Thinking Minds	https://littletheinkingminds.com/en	Jordan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Europe, Canada, North America	Edtech company creating digital solutions and resources for school-aged children in MENA. Have an application called Qysas with over 100 leveled books geared towards primary year students to promote literacy which was successfully implemented in Jordanian public schools.
École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Rabat		Morocco	Assistive technology that enables educators to easily create and publish Moroccan Sign Language (MSL) supported educational materials for students who are deaf/hard of hearing.
Latin America and the Caribbean			

Organization's Name	Website	Countries Covered	Brief Description/Special Skills
Escuela Nueva	https://escuelanueva.org/	Colombia, Vietnam	Educational model which can be used in multi-grade schools that integrates curricular and community strategies, training, follow-up and management; that promotes active and cooperative learning to the level of every child; and that strengthens the link between the community and the school. The model is flexible, adapted to the context and needs of rural children (e.g. integrating pedagogical productive projects).
Manos Unidas/ Señas y sonrisas	https://www.manosunidas.org/ https://www.signsandsmiles.org/es/inicio/	Nicaragua	Developed an interactive corpus of sign language words, a smartphone app, and a literacy outreach program for deaf children and their families.
Global			
American Institutes of Research	https://www.air.org/		Research, particularly language mapping and transitions
Benetech	https://benetech.org/		Books for low-vision children
BlueTree Group	https://www.bluetreegroup.co.uk/		Book supply chain analysis and development
Chemonics	https://chemonics.com/		All aspects of reading instruction + FCV
Creative Associates	https://www.creativeassociatesinternational.com/		All aspects of reading instruction + FCV
Early Literacy Network	http://www.earlyliteracynetw.org/		Provides links to research and resources on licensing, policies, creation, and use of high- quality reading materials in the global South.
Education Development Center (EDC)	https://www.edc.org/		All aspects of reading instruction; distance education
FHI 360	https://www.fhi360.org/		All aspects of reading instruction
Global Book Alliance	https://www.globalbookalliance.org/		The Global Book Alliance is an international effort involving multiple stakeholders working to transform book development, procurement, and distribution to ensure that no child is without books. By drawing together the largest public-sector investors, the Alliance can ensure that these public funds are invested in low cost, high-quality books, while strengthening private publishers who will sustain the supply of books.

Organization's Name	Website	Countries Covered	Brief Description/Special Skills
Global Digital Library	https://digitallibrary.io/		The Global Digital Library (GDL) will collect existing high-quality open educational reading resources, and make them available on web, mobile and for print. It will also facilitate translation and localization of these resources to more than 300 languages. The goal is to make at least 50,000 titles in 100 languages available on the GDL platform by the end of 2020. Initially, the GDL will support access to high quality early-grade reading resources.
Global Reading Network	https://www.globalreadingnet.org/work.net/		The Global Reading Network seeks to remedy the learning crisis by connecting stakeholders, individuals, and organizations committed to ensuring that all children are able to read.
International Rescue Committee	https://www.rescue.org/outcome/education		Working with Sesame Street with refugee children in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq
JSI/World Education	www.jsi.com https://www.worlded.org/ https://publications.jsi.com/JSI/Internet/Inc/Common/download_pub.cfm?id=14202&lid=3		Research, reading instruction, track and trace, book development for Nepali languages
People's Action for Learning	https://palnetwork.org/		The People's Action for Learning (PAL) Network is a south-south partnership of organizations working across three continents. Member organizations conduct citizen-led assessments and/or citizen-led actions aimed at improving learning outcomes.
Room to Read	https://www.roomtoread.org/		Its Literacy Program provides books in local languages to primary schools and train teachers and librarians on how to engage with children in reading.
RTI	https://www.rti.org/		All aspects of reading instruction; assessment
Sesame Workshop	https://www.sesameworkshop.org/		Contextualized versions of Sesame Street and other resources, for ECD

Organization's Name	Website	Countries Covered	Brief Description/Special Skills
SIL and SIL/LEAD	https://www.sil.org/ https://www.sil-lead.org/ http://bloomlibrary.org/		All aspects of reading instruction, book development, software; sign language books
TaRL	https://www.teachingattherightlevel.org/		Teaching at the Right Level (J-PAL & Pratham) remediation programs in a range of countries
ThinkEqual	https://thinkequal.org/		Offers a free home kit of 6 narrative picture books with activity sheets focused on socio-emotional learning.
World Reader	https://www.worldreader.org/		Provides free access to a library of digital books via e-readers and mobile phones.

APPENDIX F. READ@HOME CORE MONITORING TOOL

Note for Teams:

- This core monitoring tool could be administered via different modalities (e.g., phone, text message, interactive voice recording (IVR), etc.)
- Questions and responses that **should be adapted for each country are highlighted in yellow.** These portions of the tool should no longer be highlighted once the tool is finalized for implementation.
- Additional guidance for teams is presented as footnotes and should be deleted once the tool is finalized for implementation.

Caregiver Consent Form (Read aloud to the Caregiver)^N

Hello, my name is _____.

My colleagues and I are supporting the **Government ministry/department** to understand your child's home learning environment.

All the information we obtain will not be shared with anyone outside of our work team.

For each question, please answer as best you can. There are no right or wrong answers. The most important thing is that you give honest answers.

- Your participation is very important, but you do not have to participate if you do not wish to.
- If you agree to participate, I will ask you some questions about your home environment and your child's learning experiences at home. My questions for you will take approximately 10 minutes.

- **If there are multiple children living in your household, let's focus the interview on only one of them aged 3 to 12 years old.^o**

Note for enumerator: For selecting one child, request the respondent to list the ages of all eligible children in the household, then randomly select one from them. The random selection can usually be automatically handled in the CAPI/CATI application.

- Your name will NOT be recorded on this form, nor mentioned anywhere in the survey data. The combined results of the assessment conducted will be shared with the **Government ministry/department**. They will use the results to identify areas where children and parents/caregivers need additional support at home.
- If there is any question that you do not want to answer, you do not have to.
- We believe there is no risk to you in participating in this research.
- **You will not personally benefit from participating in this interview [This instruction is prone to change if there is some type of compensation for participation in the survey. For instance, some phone surveys may provide participants with phone credit as compensation].**
- If you want to stop the interview at any point, we can conclude it.
- Do you have any questions for me?
- Are you willing to participate?

Parent/Caregiver provided consent (Circle to indicate consent was received): *YES*

If consent is refused, record this below, thank the Parent/Caregiver, and end the interview.

^N The language in the consent form may need to be adapted/simplified depending on country context.

^o Age range and selection of target child(ren) will need to be decided for each context, with some global guidance.

Read@Home Monitoring Tool

General Instructions

- Ask the Parent/Caregiver to answer each question orally, as in an interview.
- Wait for the Parent/Caregiver to respond to each question, then select the answer that corresponds to his or her response.
- For most questions, only one response is permitted. The instructions indicate the exceptions.
- Note that all instructions to interviewer are in **bold letters**.

Interviewer ID
Participant Unique ID
Phone number <i>For the final data set, this information must be removed to unidentified respondents.</i>	
Starting time [Use 24-hour time HH:MM]	HH : MM
Interview date [DD/MM/YY]	DD / MM / YY
Interview status (<i>to be filled at the end of the interview</i>)	Refused ☐ Thank Caregiver and end interview 1 Partially completed2 Completed.....3

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.	What is your child's name?	
2.	Who is <i>(name)</i> 's primary caregiver? <i>The primary caregiver is the adult at home who most frequently looks after the child.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Person completing interview (1) <input type="radio"/> Other (specify relationship with child) (2): _____
3.	What is your relationship to <i>(name)</i> ?	<input type="radio"/> Mother (1) <input type="radio"/> Father (2) <input type="radio"/> Grandparent (3) <input type="radio"/> Other relative (4) <input type="radio"/> Other non-relative (specify): _____(5)
4.	What is your gender?	<input type="radio"/> Male (1) <input type="radio"/> Female (2)
5.	What is the highest level of school attended by <i>(name)</i> 's mother?	Never attended school1 Primary incomplete2 Primary complete3 Intermediate incomplete4 Intermediate complete5 Secondary incomplete6 Secondary complete7 Bachelor incomplete8 Bachelor completed or higher9 Other (specify)10
6.	What is the highest level of school attended by <i>(name)</i> 's father?	
7.	If caregiver is not mother or father, what is the highest level of school attended by caregiver?	
8.	What is <i>(name)</i> 's date of birth [If exact day of birth is not known, enter Child's month/year of birth]	
9.	Is <i>(name)</i> a boy or a girl?	<input type="radio"/> Male (1) <input type="radio"/> Female (2)

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS				
10.	Does your household have: [<i>do not ask if already known/visible</i>]	Yes (1)	No (0)	No answer/ don't know (88)
10a.	Electricity [<i>regardless of source</i>]			
10b.	Radio			
10c.	Television			
10d.	Mobile telephone			
10e.	Non-mobile (landline) telephone			
10f.	Computer (includes laptops and tablets)			
10g.	Internet			

PARENTAL SUPPORT AT HOME				
11.	<p><i>For these next items, please answer with YES or NO.</i></p> <p>Please let me know if, during the last 3 days, did you or any household member age 15 or over engage in any of the following activities with (<i>name</i>):</p> <p>Check the box that applies for each question.</p>	No (0)	Yes (1)	Don't know (88)
11a.	played with [<i>name</i>]?			
11b.	read books or looked at picture books with [<i>name</i>]?			
11c.	told stories to [<i>name</i>]?			
11d.	sang songs to or with [<i>name</i>], including lullabies?			
11e.	took [<i>name</i>] outside the house?			
11f.	named, counted, or drew things for or with [<i>name</i>]?			
11g.	helped [<i>name</i>] with homework/schoolwork?			
12.	<p>How many children's books or picture books do you have for (<i>name</i>) at home?</p> <p><i>(Some teams may want to add an additional question about digital reading devices such as tablets, Amazon Kindle or other gadgets, available for children at home.)</i></p>	[<i>enter number</i>]		

CHILD ENGAGEMENT WITH EDUCATIONAL CONTENT (From Poverty GP COVID-19 Survey)				
	<i>For these next items, please answer with YES or NO.</i>	No (0)	Yes (1)	Don't know (88)
13.	In the last 15 days, has [name] accessed free learning content on: Check the box that applies for each question.			
13a.	Radio			
13b.	Television			
13c.	Computer with Internet			
13d.	Computer with no Internet			
13e.	Smart phone or tablet			
13f.	Feature phone using SMS (text messaging)			
13g.	Printed materials from school (e.g., textbooks, notebooks, exercise books, assignments, or copies)			
13h.	Printed reading materials (e.g., reading books for children or adults, magazines, religious reading material)			
14.	In the last 3 days, has [name]: Check the box that applies for each question.			
14a.	Read a book on his/her own?			
14b.	Read other material (e.g., newspapers, magazines, comics) on his/her own?			
14c.	Asked you or someone else in your household to read a book to him/her or tell him/her a story?			
14d.	Read a book to someone else (e.g., sibling, relative, friend)			

ENROLLMENT IN CHILDCARE/SCHOOL		
15.	Was [name] attending any of the following before childcare centers and schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<input type="radio"/> Nursery / Childcare <input type="radio"/> Community center <input type="radio"/> Preschool <input type="radio"/> Primary school <input type="radio"/> Secondary school <input type="radio"/> Religious school <input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> Do not know <input type="radio"/> Other: _____
16.	Are you planning on sending [child] back once childcare or school reopens?	<input type="radio"/> No (0) <input type="radio"/> Yes (1)

Ending the Interview: *[check whether all items were answered]*

These are all the questions I had for you. Thank you for your participation. Do you have any questions for me?

COMMENTS:

Did anything happen over the course of the interview that makes you think the data are compromised or not trustworthy? Please describe.

Were there any items you think the interviewee did not understand? If so, please list them here. From your point of view, what was misunderstood or needed more clarification?

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS		
X1.	How many other children live in <i>(name)</i> 's household? (list number by age)	Aged 0-2 _____ Aged 3-6 _____ Aged 7-9 _____ Aged 10-17 _____
X2.	Who are the adults who live in this home? <i>Check all that apply</i>	<input type="radio"/> Mother (1) <input type="radio"/> Father (2) <input type="radio"/> Grandmother (3) <input type="radio"/> Grandfather (4) <input type="radio"/> Other (5)

READ@HOME PACKAGE <i>(should be applied in countries where the Read@Home package will be clearly identified as such)</i>				
X3.	<i>For these next items, please answer with YES or NO. Check the box that applies for each question.</i>	No (0)	Yes (1)	Don't know (88)
X3a.	Did your family receive the Read@Home package? (If no, skip to next set of questions)			
X3b.	Did your family receive books as part of the Read@Home package?			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify number of books: _____ 		
X3c.	Did your family receive caregiver handouts as part of the Read@Home package? <i>(add items if necessary to cover all materials provided as part of Read@Home package)</i>			
X3d.	Do you and your child still have the complete Read@Home package?			
X3e.	In the past 3 days, did you read any of the Read@Home books to your child?			
X3f.	In the past 3 days, did anyone else in your household read any of the Read@Home books to your child?			
X3g.	In the past 3 days, did <i>(name)</i> read any of the Read@Home books on his or her own?			
X3h.	In the past 3 days, did you carry out any other Read@Home activities with your child? <i>(This item can be expanded and made more specific depending on the Read@Home package within a given context^p)</i>			

^p This could include access to/participation in radio and TV programming, home visits, and other elements of the Read@Home program in a given context.

SIBLING SUPPORT AT HOME				
<i>(Should be included in contexts where siblings are specifically targeted.)</i>				
	<i>For these next items, please answer with YES or NO. Please let me know if, during the last 3 days, did you or any household member age 15 or over engage in any of the following activities with (name): Check the box that applies for each question.</i>	No (0)	Yes (1)	Don't know (88)
X4.				
X4a.	played with [name]?			
X4b.	read books or looked at picture books with [name]?			
X4c.	told stories to [name]?			
X4d.	sang songs to or with [name], including lullabies?			
X4e.	took [name] outside the house?			
X4f.	named, counted, or drew things for or with [name]?			
X4g.	helped [name] with homework/schoolwork?			

FOOD SECURITY ^Q				
		No (0)	Yes (1)	Don't know (88)
X5.	In January of this year, was there a time when your household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources?			
X6a.	During the last 15 days, was there a time when your household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources?			
X6b.	During the last 15 days, you, or any other adult in your household, were hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money or other resources for food?			
X6c.	During the last 15 days, you, or any other adult in your household, went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?			

^Q These questions were taken from the COVID-19 response survey designed by the Poverty Global Practice at the World Bank Group

CHILD'S COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT				
	<i>For these next items, please answer with YES or NO.</i> Please let me know if (name): Check the box that applies for each question.	No (0)	Yes (1)	Don't know (88)
Language/Literacy concepts				
X7.	Can (name) follow text in a correct direction from left to right and from top to bottom, even if they cannot read?			
X8.	Can (name) name at least 10 letters (does not need to be able to label/match the letters, only to name them)?			
X9.	Can (name) read four simple words?			
X10.	Can (name) write at least three letters such as A, B, C or some letters in his/her name?			
X11.	Can (name) write a simple word?			

CAREGIVER WELL-BEING				
	<i>For these next items, please answer with YES or NO.</i> Please let me know if during the last 15 days you have: Check the box that applies for each question.	No (0)	Yes (1)	Don't know (88)
X12.	found it difficult to be affectionate to your child.			
X13.	been feeling more irritated or angry.			
X14.	found it difficult to get enough sleep at night			
X15.	been nervous or anxious.			
X16.	not being able to stop or control worrying.			

CHILD INTERNALIZING / EXTERNALIZING BEHAVIORS				
	<i>For these next items, please answer with YES or NO.</i> In the last 15 days, please let me know if your child has been: Check the box that applies for each question.	No (0)	Yes (1)	Don't know (88)
X17.	crying more than he/she used to.			
X18.	speaking less well than he/she used to.			
X19.	being withdrawn or very quiet more than usual.			

X20.	being irritable more than he/she used to.			
X21.	defiant (<i>does not follow the house rules</i>) more than usual.			
X22.	destroying or damaging things more than usual.			

CHILD DISCIPLINE ^R				
	<p><i>For these next items, please answer with YES or NO.</i></p> <p>Adults use certain ways to teach children the right behavior or to address a behavior problem. I will read various methods that are used. Please let me know if, during the last 15 days, you or any household member age 15 or over has used this method with (<i>name</i>):</p> <p>Check the box that applies for each question.</p>	No (0)	Yes (1)	Don't know / Not apply (88)
X23.	Called (him/her) dumb, lazy or another name like that.			
X24.	Spanked, hit or slapped (him/her) on the bottom with bare hand			
X25.	Hit or slapped (him/her) on the hand, arm, or leg.			
X26.	Hit or slapped (him/her) on the face, head or ears.			
X27.	Hit (him/her) on the bottom or elsewhere on the body with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick or other hard object.			
X28.	Beat (him/her) up, that is hit (him/her) over and over as hard as one could.			
X29.	Do you believe that in order to bring up, raise, or educate a child properly, the child needs to be physically punished?			

^R From UNICEF MICS.

APPENDIX G. SAMPLE MONITORING TOOLS⁵

1. MATERIAL DELIVERY SURVEY

Read questions 1-3 below and write the response as the parent gives it.				
1	Family Name:			
2	Children's names:			
3	Did your family receive the Read@Home package? If no, skip to question 14. If yes, continue with questions below.			
4	What date did your family receive the Read@Home package? If a specific date cannot be remembered, can you estimate whether it was a day ago, a week ago, or longer. (Write their estimated date).			
5	What was the condition the materials were in? Circle one option.	Poor	Fair	Good
6	Was the packaging open or torn? Circle one option.	Yes	No	Don't know
7	How many books were included in your Read@Home Package. Write number given.			
8	Were reading materials at the right reading level for your child?	Yes	No	Don't know
9	Were reading materials in a language your child can read and understand?	Yes	No	Don't know
10	Have your children read any books on their own?	Yes	No	Don't know
11	Have you read any books with your children since you received the package?	Yes	No	Don't know
12	Did your family receive handouts for parents? Circle one option.	Yes	No	Don't know
13	Were the handouts in a language you can read? Circle one option	Yes	No	Don't know
14	Were you told that you would receive a Read@Home package?	Yes	No	Don't know
15	Who did you communicate with about receiving a Read@Home package	R@H staff	Other staff	Don't know

⁵ Please refer to Table 3.2 for further information

2. BOOK SELECTION CHECKLIST

Name of village _____

Number of families participating in Read@Home project _____

Total number of books in each Read@Home package _____

Please fill out the checklist and include exact amounts of each if known.

	Yes	No	Number
We included books in local language(s)			
We included books in the national language			
We included titles written by local authors			
We included titles written by international authors			
We included titles taken from online platforms like Global Book Alliance, Story Weaver, Pratham Books, etc.			
We included non-fiction titles			
Some books had female lead characters			
Some books had a diverse character (child with disability, child from a minority group, etc.)			
Some books reflected the local context			
We included books across reading levels (please indicate number of books in each level in number column)			
We included wordless books for the youngest readers			

3. PROCESS-LEVEL EVALUATION

Parent Survey-Effectiveness of Read@Home Information Sessions

Parent name:	Village:	Date:
Information session Logistics		
1. Did you attend an Read@Home information session? Y/N		
2. If yes, what was the format of the information session: a. In person with a facilitator b. Recorded video at a partner location c. Audio recording sent to your phone d. Other _____		
3. If you attended in person, where was the session located: a. At my home b. At a location within the community c. Other _____		
4. Was the date and time of the information session convenient for you?		
Information session content		
1. How satisfied were you with the content of the information session: a. Very satisfied b. Satisfied c. Not satisfied		
2. How clear was the content in the information session: a. Very clear b. Clear c. Not clear		
3. How satisfied were you with the facilitator's knowledge? a. Very satisfied b. Satisfied c. Not satisfied		
4. Did you receive a printed hand-out after the session? a. Yes b. No		
5. If you received a printed hand-out after the session, how clear was the content about what to do with the materials? a. Very clear b. Clear c. Not clear		
6. Was the facilitator able to answer all of your questions? a. Yes, all my questions were answered b. Some of my questions were answered c. The facilitator could not answer any of my questions		

4. PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

1	Family name:				
2	Children's names:				
3	How frequently do you read with your child? Circle one option.	4 or more times a month	2-3 times a month	Once a month	Never
4	How frequently do you do a literacy activity with your child? Circle one option.	4 or more times a month	2-3 times a month	Once a month	Never
5	How confident do you feel reading to your child?	Very confident	Confident	Somewhat confident	Not confident
6	How confident do you feel doing a literacy activity with your child	Very confident	Confident	Somewhat confident	Not confident
7	Which age child do you interact with the most with reading?	Youngest (birth-3)	Middle (4-8)	Oldest (10-12)	All
8	How do you feel when interacting with books with your child?	Very happy	Happy	Neutral	Upset
9	Do you have a reading corner in your home?	Yes	No	Don't know	
10	Do you have a place to store your books at home?	Yes	No	Don't know	

5. UNICEF MICS PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Modules for parental involvement and foundation learning mics6 (may 2017)

See <mics.unicef.org/tools> for latest questionnaires

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT		PR
PR1. Check CB3: Child's age?	AGE 5-6 YEARS 1	1 ⇒ End
	AGE 7-14 YEARS 2	
	AGE 15-17 YEARS 3	3 ⇒ End
PR2. At the end of this interview I will ask you if I can talk to (name) . If (he/she) is close, can you please ask (him/her) to stay here. If (name) is not with you at the moment could I ask that you now arrange for (him/her) to return? If that is not possible, we will later discuss a convenient time for me to call back.		
PR3. Excluding school text books and holy books, how many books do you have for (name) to read at home?	NONE..... 00	
	NUMBER OF BOOKS <u>0</u>	
	TEN OR MORE BOOKS 10	
PR4. Check CB7: Did the child attend any school? CHECK ED9 IN THE EDUCATION MODULE IN THE HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHILD IF CB7 WAS NOT ASKED.	YES, CB7/ED9=1..... 1	2 ⇒ End
	NO, CB7/ED9=2 OR BLANK..... 2	
PR5. Does (name) ever have homework?	YES..... 1	2 ⇒ PR7
	NO 2	8 ⇒ PR7
	DK..... 8	
PR6. Does anyone help (name) with homework?	YES..... 1	
	NO 2	
	DK..... 8	
PR7. Does (name) 's school have a school governing body in which parents can participate (such as parent teacher association or school management committee / use local terms)?	YES..... 1	2 ⇒ PR10
	NO 2	8 ⇒ PR10
	DK..... 8	

<p>PR8. In the last 12 months, have you or any other adult from your household attended a meeting called by this school governing body?</p>	<p>YES.....1 NO2 DK.....8</p>	<p>2 ⇒ PR10 8 ⇒ PR10</p>
<p>PR9. During any of these meetings, was any of the following discussed:</p> <p>[A] A plan for addressing key education issues faced by <i>(name)</i>'s school?</p> <p>[B] School budget or use of funds received by <i>(name)</i>'s school?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">YES NO DK</p> <p>PLAN FOR ADDRESSING SCHOOL'S ISSUES.....1 2 8</p> <p>SCHOOL BUDGET.....1 2 8</p>	
<p>PR10. In the last 12 months, have you or any other adult from your household received a school or student report card for <i>(name)</i>?</p>	<p>YES.....1 NO2 DK.....8</p>	
<p>PR11. In the last 12 months, have you or any adult from your household gone to <i>(name)</i>'s school for any of the following reasons?</p> <p>[A] A school celebration or a sport event?</p> <p>[B] To discuss <i>(name)</i>'s progress with (his/her) teachers?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">YES NO DK</p> <p>CELEBRATION OR SPORT EVENT1 2 8</p> <p>TO DISCUSS PROGRESS WITH TEACHERS.....1 2 8</p>	
<p>PR12. In the last 12 months, has <i>(name)</i>'s school been closed on a school day due to any of the following reasons:</p> <p>[A] Natural disasters, such as flood, cyclone, epidemics or similar?</p> <p>[B] Man-made disasters, such as fire, building collapse, riots or similar?</p> <p>[C] Teacher strike?</p> <p>[X] Other?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">YES NO DK</p> <p>NATURAL DISASTERS1 2 8</p> <p>MAN-MADE DISASTERS1 2 8</p> <p>TEACHER STRIKE1 2 8</p> <p>OTHER1 2 8</p>	
<p>PR13. In the last 12 months, was <i>(name)</i> unable to attend class due to (his/her) teacher being absent?</p>	<p>YES.....1 NO2 DK.....8</p>	

PR14. Check PR12[C] and PR13: Any 'Yes' recorded?	YES, PR12[C]=1 OR PR13=11 NO2	2 ⇒ End
PR15. When (teacher strike / teacher absence) happened did you or any other adult member of your household contact any school officials or school governing body representatives?	YES.....1 NO2 DK.....8	

FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING SKILLS		FL
FL0. Check CB3: Child's age?	AGE 5-6 YEARS.....1 AGE 7-14 YEARS.....2 AGE 15-17 YEARS.....3	1 ⇒ End 3 ⇒ End
<p>FL1. Now I would like to talk to (name). I will ask (him/her) a few questions about (himself/herself) and about reading, and then ask (him/her) to complete a few reading and number activities.</p> <p>These are not school tests and the results will not be shared with anyone, including other parents[↗] or the school. You will not benefit directly from participating and I am not trained to tell you how well (name) has performed. The activities are to help us find out how well children in this country are learning to read and to use numbers so that improvements can be made.</p> <p>This will take about 20 minutes. Again, all the information we obtain will remain strictly confidential and anonymous.</p>		
May I talk to (name)?	YES, PERMISSION IS GIVEN1 NO, PERMISSION IS NOT GIVEN2	2 ⇒ FL28
FL2. Record the time.	HOURS AND MINUTES... _____: _____	
<p>FL3. My name is (<i>your name</i>). I would like to tell you a bit about myself.</p> <p>Could you tell me a little bit about yourself?</p> <p><i>When the child is comfortable, continue with the verbal consent:</i></p> <p>Let me tell you why I am here today. I am from National Statistical Office. I am part of a team trying to find out how children are learning to read and to use numbers. We are also talking to some of the children about this and asking them to do some reading and number activities. (Your mother/<i>Name of caretaker</i>) has said that you can decide if you want to help us. If you wish to help us, I will ask you some questions and give you some activities to do. I will explain each activity, and you can ask me questions any time. You do not have to do anything that you do not want to do. After we begin, if you do not want to answer a question or you do not want to continue that is alright.</p>		
Are you ready to get started?	YES, PERMISSION IS GIVEN.....1 NO, PERMISSION IS NOT GIVEN2	1 ⇒ FL4 2 ⇒ FL28

FL4. Before you start with the reading and number activities, tick each box to show that:

- You are not alone with the child unless they are at least visible to an adult known to the child.
- You have engaged the child in conversation and built rapport, e.g. using an Icebreaker.
- The child is sat comfortably, able to use the Reading & Numbers Book without difficulty while you can see which page is open.

<p>FL5. Remember you can ask me a question at any time if there is something you do not understand. You can ask me to stop at any time.</p>		
<p>FL6. First we are going to talk about reading.</p> <p>[A] Do you read books at home?</p> <p>[B] Does someone read to you at home?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">YES NO</p> <p>READS BOOKS AT HOME.....1 2</p> <p>READ TO AT HOME.....1 2</p>	
<p>FL7. Which language do you speak most of the time at home?</p> <p><i>Probe if necessary and read the listed languages.</i></p>	<p>LANGUAGE 1 1</p> <p>LANGUAGE 2 2</p> <p>LANGUAGE 3 3</p> <p>OTHER (specify).....6</p> <p>DK..... 8</p>	
<p>FL8. Check CB7: Did the child attend any school?</p> <p><i>CHECK ED9 IN THE EDUCATION MODULE IN THE HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHILD IF CB7 WAS NOT ASKED.</i></p> <p>FL8A. Check FL7: Is READING & NUMBER BOOK available in the language spoken at home?</p>	<p>YES, CB7/ED9=1 1</p> <p>NO, CB7/ED9=2 OR BLANK..... 2</p> <p>YES, FL7=1, 2 OR 3..... 1</p> <p>NO, FL7=6 OR 8 2</p>	<p>1 ⇒ FL9</p> <p>1 ⇒ FL10B</p> <p>2 ⇒ FL23</p>
<p>FL9. What language do your teachers use most of the time when teaching you in class?</p> <p><i>Probe if necessary and name the listed languages.</i></p>	<p>LANGUAGE 1 1</p> <p>LANGUAGE 2 2</p> <p>LANGUAGE 3 3</p> <p>OTHER (specify).....6</p> <p>DK..... 8</p>	<p>1 ⇒ FL10A</p> <p>2 ⇒ FL10A</p> <p>3 ⇒ FL10A</p> <p>6 ⇒ FL23</p> <p>8 ⇒ FL23</p>

<p>FL10A. Now I am going to give you a short story to read in (<i>Language recorded in FL9</i>). Would you like to start reading the story?</p> <p>FL10B. Now I am going to give you a short story to read in (<i>Language recorded in FL7</i>). Would you like to start reading the story?</p>	<p>YES 1 NO 2</p>	<p>2 ⇒FL23</p>
<p>FL11. Check CB3: Child's age?</p>	<p>AGE 7-9 YEARS 1 AGE 10-14 YEARS 2</p>	<p>1 ⇒FL13</p>
<p>FL12. Check CB7: Did the child attend any school?</p> <p><i>CHECK ED9 IN THE EDUCATION MODULE IN THE HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHILD IF CB7 WAS NOT ASKED.</i></p>	<p>YES, CB7/ED9=1 1 NO, CB7/ED9=2 OR BLANK..... 2</p>	<p>1 ⇒FL19</p>

<p>FL13. Give the child the <i>READING & NUMBER BOOK</i>. Open the page showing the reading practice item and say:</p> <p>Now we are going to do some reading. <i>Point to the sentence</i>. I would like you to read this aloud. Then I may ask you a question.</p> <p><i>Sam is a cat. Tina is a dog. Sam is 5. Tina is 6.</i></p>		
<p>FL14. Did the child read every word in the practice correctly?</p>	<p>YES..... 1 NO 2</p>	<p>2 ⇒FL23</p>
<p>FL15. Once the reading is done, ask: How old is Sam?</p>	<p>SAM IS 5 YEARS OLD..... 1 OTHER ANSWERS 2 NO ANSWER AFTER 5 SECONDS 3</p>	<p>1 ⇒FL17</p>
<p>FL16. Say: Sam is 5 years old. <i>and go to FL23.</i></p>		<p>⇒FL23</p>
<p>FL17. Here is another question: Who is older: Sam or Tina?</p>	<p>TINA IS OLDER (THAN SAM) 1 OTHER ANSWERS 2 NO ANSWER AFTER 5 SECONDS 3</p>	<p>1 ⇒FL19</p>
<p>FL18. Say: Tina is older than Sam. Tina is 6 and Sam is 5. <i>and go to FL23.</i></p>		<p>⇒FL23</p>

<p>FL19. Turn the page to reveal the reading passage.</p> <p>Thank you. Now I want you to try this.</p> <p>Here is a story. I want you to read it aloud as carefully as you can.</p> <p>You will start here (<i>point to the first word on the first line</i>) and you will read line by line (<i>point to the direction for reading each line</i>).</p> <p>When you finish I will ask you some questions about what you have read.</p> <p>If you come to a word you do not know, go onto the next word.</p> <p>Put your finger on the first word. Ready? Begin.</p>	Moses	is	in	class	two.	One	day,
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Moses	was	going	home	from	school.	He
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	saw	some	red	flowers	on	the	way.
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	The	flowers	were	near	a	tomato	farm.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Moses	wanted	to	get	some	flowers	for
	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
	his	mother.	Moses	ran	fast	across	the
	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
	farm	to	get	the	flowers.	He	fell
	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
	down	near	a	banana	tree.	Moses	started
	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
	crying.	The	farmer	saw	him	and	came.
	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
	He	gave	Moses	many	flowers.	Moses	was
	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
	very	happy.					
71	72						
FL20. Results of the child's reading.	LAST WORD ATTEMPTED NUMBER _____						
	TOTAL NUMBER OF WORDS INCORRECT OR MISSED NUMBER _____						
FL21. How well did the child read the story?	THE CHILD READ AT LEAST ONE WORD CORRECT.....1						
	THE CHILD DID NOT READ ANY WORD CORRECTLY2						2 ⇒ FL23
	THE CHILD DID NOT TRY TO READ THE STORY3						3 ⇒ F23

<p>FL22. Now I am going to ask you a few questions about what you have read.</p> <p><i>If the child does not provide a response after a few seconds, repeat the question. If the child seems unable to provide an answer after repeating the question, mark 'No response' and say: Thank you. That is ok. We will move on.</i></p> <p><i>Make sure the child can still see the passage and ask:</i></p> <p>[A] What class is Moses in?</p> <p>[B] What did Moses see on the way home?</p> <p>[C] Why did Moses start crying?</p> <p>[D] Where did Moses fall (down)?</p> <p>[E] Why was Moses happy?</p>	<p>CORRECT ((MOSES IS) IN CLASS TWO)..... 1</p> <p>INCORRECT 2</p> <p>NO RESPONSE / SAYS 'I DON'T KNOW' 3</p> <p>CORRECT (HE SAW SOME FLOWERS) 1</p> <p>INCORRECT 2</p> <p>NO RESPONSE / SAYS 'I DON'T KNOW' 3</p> <p>CORRECT (BECAUSE HE FELL) 1</p> <p>INCORRECT 2</p> <p>NO RESPONSE / SAYS 'I DON'T KNOW' 3</p> <p>CORRECT ((MOSES FELL DOWN) NEAR A BANANA TREE)..... 1</p> <p>INCORRECT 2</p> <p>NO RESPONSE / SAYS 'I DON'T KNOW' 3</p> <p>CORRECT (BECAUSE THE FARMER GAVE HIM MANY FLOWERS. / BECAUSE HE HAD FLOWERS TO GIVE TO HIS MOTHER) 1</p> <p>INCORRECT 2</p> <p>NO RESPONSE / SAYS 'I DON'T KNOW' 3</p>	
---	---	--

<p>FL23. Turn the page in the Reading & Numbers Book so the child is looking at the list of numbers. Make sure the child is looking at this page.</p> <p>Now here are some numbers. I want you to point to each number and tell me what the number is.</p> <p>Point to the first number and say:</p> <p>Start here.</p> <p>If the child stops on a number for a while, tell the child what the number is, mark the number as 'No Attempt', point to the next number and say:</p> <p>What is this number?</p> <p>STOP RULE If the child does not attempt to read 2 consecutive numbers, say:</p> <p>Thank you. That is ok. We will go to the next activity.</p>	<p>9 CORRECT 1 INCORRECT..... 2 NO ATTEMPT..... 3</p> <p>12 CORRECT 1 INCORRECT..... 2 NO ATTEMPT..... 3</p> <p>30 CORRECT 1 INCORRECT..... 2 NO ATTEMPT..... 3</p> <p>48 CORRECT 1 INCORRECT..... 2 NO ATTEMPT..... 3</p> <p>74 CORRECT 1 INCORRECT..... 2 NO ATTEMPT..... 3</p> <p>731 CORRECT 1 INCORRECT..... 2 NO ATTEMPT..... 3</p>	
<p>FL23A. Check FL23: Did the child correctly identify two of the first three numbers (9, 12 and 30)?</p>	<p>YES, AT LEAST TWO CORRECT 1 NO, AT LEAST 2 INCORRECT OR WITH NO ATTEMPT..... 2</p>	<p>2 ⇒FL28</p>
<p>FL24. Turn the page so the child is looking at the first pair of numbers. Make sure the child is looking at this page. Say:</p> <p>Look at these numbers. Tell me which one is bigger.</p> <p>Record the child's answer before turning the page in the book and repeating the question for the next pair of numbers.</p> <p>If the child does not provide a response after a few seconds, repeat the question. If the child seems unable to provide an answer after repeating the question, mark a 'Z' for the answer on the appropriate row on the questionnaire, turn the booklet page and show the child the next pair of numbers.</p> <p>If the child does not attempt 2 consecutive pairs, say:</p> <p>Thank you. That is ok. We will go to the next activity.</p>	<p>7 5 _____</p> <p>11 24 _____</p> <p>58 49 _____</p> <p>65 67 _____</p> <p>146 154 _____</p>	

<p>FL25. Give the child a pencil and paper. Turn the page so the child is looking at the first addition. Make sure the child is looking at this page. Say:</p> <p>Look at this sum. How much is (number plus number)? Tell me the answer. You can use the pencil and paper if it helps you.</p> <p>Record the child's answer before turning the page in the book and repeating the question for the next sum.</p> <p>If the child does not provide a response after a few seconds, repeat the question. If the child seems unable to provide an answer after repeating the question, mark a 'Z' for the answer on the appropriate row on the questionnaire, turn the booklet page and show the child the next addition.</p> <p>If the child does not attempt 2 consecutive pairs, say:</p> <p>Thank you. That is ok. We will go to the next activity.</p>	$3 + 2 = \underline{\quad}$ $8 + 6 = \underline{\quad}$ $7 + 3 = \underline{\quad}$ $13 + 6 = \underline{\quad}$ $12 + 24 = \underline{\quad}$	
<p>FL26. Turn the page to the practice sheet for missing numbers. Say:</p> <p>Here are some numbers. 1, 2, and 4. What number goes here?</p> <p>If the child answers correctly say: That's correct, 3. Let's do another one.</p> <p>If the child answers incorrectly, do not explain the child how to get the correct answer. Just say: The number 3 goes here. Say the numbers with me. (Point to each number) 1, 2, 3, 4. 3 goes here. Let's do another one.</p> <p>Now turn the page to the next practice sheet. Say:</p> <p>Here are some more numbers. 5, 10, 15 and _____. What number goes here?</p> <p>If the child answers correctly say: That's correct, 20. Now I want you to try this on your own</p> <p>If the child answers incorrectly say: The number 20 goes here. Say the numbers with me. (Point to each number) 5, 10, 15, 20. 20 goes here. Now I want you to try this on your own.</p>		

<p>FL27. Now turn the page in the Reading & Numbers Book with the first missing number activity. Say:</p> <p>Here are some more numbers. Tell me what number goes here (pointing to the missing number).</p> <p>Record the child's answer before turning the page in the book and repeating the question.</p> <p>If the child does not provide a response after a few seconds, repeat the question. If the child seems unable to provide an answer after repeating the question, mark a 'Z' for the answer on the appropriate row on the questionnaire.</p> <p>If the child does not attempt 2 consecutive activities, say:</p> <p>Thank you. That is ok.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">5</td> <td style="width: 25%;">6</td> <td style="width: 25%;">7</td> <td style="width: 25%;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>_____</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>_____</td> <td>40</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>8</td> <td>11</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>	5	6	7	_____	14	15	_____	17	20	_____	40	50	2	4	6	_____	5	8	11	_____	
5	6	7	_____																			
14	15	_____	17																			
20	_____	40	50																			
2	4	6	_____																			
5	8	11	_____																			

<p>FL28. Result of interview with child.</p> <p>Discuss any result not completed with Supervisor.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>COMPLETED</td> <td style="text-align: right;">01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NOT AT HOME</td> <td style="text-align: right;">02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MOTHER / CARETAKER REFUSED</td> <td style="text-align: right;">03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHILD REFUSED</td> <td style="text-align: right;">04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PARTLY COMPLETED</td> <td style="text-align: right;">05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INCAPACITATED</td> <td style="text-align: right;">06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHER (specify) _____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">96</td> </tr> </table>	COMPLETED	01	NOT AT HOME	02	MOTHER / CARETAKER REFUSED	03	CHILD REFUSED	04	PARTLY COMPLETED	05	INCAPACITATED	06	OTHER (specify) _____	96	
COMPLETED	01															
NOT AT HOME	02															
MOTHER / CARETAKER REFUSED	03															
CHILD REFUSED	04															
PARTLY COMPLETED	05															
INCAPACITATED	06															
OTHER (specify) _____	96															

FS11. Record the time.	HOURS AND MINUTES ____: ____	
FS12. Language of the Questionnaire.	ENGLISH 1 LANGUAGE 2 2 LANGUAGE 3 3	
FS13. Language of the Interview.	ENGLISH 1 LANGUAGE 2 2 LANGUAGE 3 3 OTHER LANGUAGE (specify) 6	
FS14. Native language of the Respondent.	ENGLISH 1 LANGUAGE 2 2 LANGUAGE 3 3 OTHER LANGUAGE (specify) 6	
FS15. Was a translator used for any parts of this questionnaire?	YES, THE ENTIRE QUESTIONNAIRE 1 YES, PARTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE 2 NO, NOT USED 3	
<p>FS16. Thank the respondent and the child for her/his cooperation.</p> <p><i>Proceed to complete the result in FS17 in the 5-17 CHILD INFORMATION PANEL and then go to the HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE and complete HH56.</i></p> <p><i>Make arrangements for the administration of the remaining questionnaire(s) in this household.</i></p>		

List of MICS6 Indicators on Parental Involvement and Foundational Learning Skills

LITERACY AND EDUCATION					
7.20	Availability of information on children's school performance	PR	Number of children age 7-14 enrolled in schools providing student report cards to parents	Total number of children age 7-14 attending school	
7.21	Opportunity to participate in School Management	PR	Number of children age 7-14 enrolled in schools whose governing body includes parents	Total number of children age 7-14 attending school	
7.22	Participation in school management	PR	Number of children age 7-14 attending school whose household member participated in school governing body meetings	Total number of children age 7-14 attending school	
7.23	Effective participation in school management	PR	Number of children age 7-14 attending school whose household member discussed key education/financial issues during school governing body meetings	Total number of children age 7-14 attending school	
7.24	Discussion with teachers regarding children's progress	PR	Number of children age 7-14 attending school whose household member discussed child's progress with teachers	Total number of children age 7-14 attending school	
7.25	Contact with school concerning teacher absence/strike	PR	Number of children age 7-14 attending school whose household member contacted school representatives when school was closed and/or class didn't take place because of teacher absence/strike	Total number of children age 7-14 attending school who couldn't attend class and/or whose school was closed due to teacher absence/strike	
7.26	Support with homework	PR	Number of children age 7-14 attending school who receive help with homework	Total number of children age 7-14 attending school who have homework	
7.27	Availability of books at home	PR	Number of children 7-14 years who have three or more books to read at home	Total number of children age 7-14 years	
7.28	Reading habit at home	FL	Number of children 7-14 years who read books or are read to at home	Total number of children age 7-14 years	
7.29	School and home languages	FL	Number of children age 7-14 attending school whose home language is used at school	Total number of children age 7-14 attending school	
7.30	Children with foundational reading and numbers skills	FL	Number of children 7-14 years who successfully complete (a) three foundational reading tasks (b) four foundational number tasks	Total number of children age 7-14 years	SDG Indicator 4.1.1

6. MASSACHUSETTS EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION



YOUR EXPERIENCES RAISING CHILDREN

20. Do you ever read children's books to your child, or is s/he too young for that?	1. Y, we read 0. N, skip to question 25
21. How many children's books altogether do you have at home that you read to your child, including library books? (Circle one)	
1. none 2. 1 to 9 books 3. 10 to 24 books 4. 25 to 49 books 5. 50 or more books	
22. How many <u>days each week</u> do you read children's books to your child?	
_____ days/week	
23. While you read to your child, do you:	
1. point to pictures and name them or describe them, or, 2. is your child too young or too easily distracted for that?	
24. At bedtime, do you:	
1. tell or read a bedtime story to your child, or 2. does your child go to sleep before you can do that?	



25. The next set of questions are about things some children like to do, but others are too young or not interested yet.	
Do you play make believe games with your child, with stuffed animals or toys?	1.Y 0. N
Do you teach your child letters or point out letters your child knows?	1.Y 0. N
Do you ask your child questions about things around the neighborhood or home, or answer your child's questions (who, what, why)?	1.Y 0. N
When you take your child to a supermarket or other store, do you encourage your child to help find the things you're shopping for?	1.Y 0. N
Do you teach your child counting or encourage your child to count things?	1.Y 0. N
Do you teach your child colors or encourage your child to name colors?	1.Y 0. N
Do you teach your child names of body parts or encourage your child to name his/her body parts?	1.Y 0. N
Do you usually talk with your child about what is going on during meal time?	1.Y 0. N
26. When you think about raising your child or children, how much, if at all, are the following items a concern for you? We'd like you to think about how it is <u>right now</u> .	

1= Not at all a concern 2= Somewhat a concern 3= Of considerable concern 4= Of extreme concern NA= Not Applicable	
How much of a concern to you is:	
The financial strain	1 2 3 4 NA
Having too much to do for your child or children	1 2 3 4 NA
The unending responsibilities	1 2 3 4 NA
Your having arguments or conflicts with them	1 2 3 4 NA
Their safety when they're away from you	1 2 3 4 NA
Not having any time to yourself because of the children	1 2 3 4 NA
Feeling tied down because of the children	1 2 3 4 NA
The trouble they might get into	1 2 3 4 NA
Not being sure if you're doing the right thing for them	1 2 3 4 NA
Not being able to spend your time the way you want	1 2 3 4 NA

27. When you think about raising your child or children, how much, if at all, are the following items rewarding for you? We'd like you to think about how it is <u>right now</u> .	
1= Not at all rewarding 2= Somewhat rewarding 3= Considerably rewarding 4= Extremely rewarding NA= Not Applicable	
How much of a reward in your life is:	
Seeing your children grow and change	1 2 3 4 NA
The love your children show	1 2 3 4 NA
Sharing interests or activities with your children	1 2 3 4 NA
Feeling proud of how your children are turning out	1 2 3 4 NA
The meaning and purpose your children gives your life	1 2 3 4 NA
Passing on to your children what you know	1 2 3 4 NA
Doing things with your children	1 2 3 4 NA
Being needed by your children	1 2 3 4 NA
The companionship your children provide	1 2 3 4 NA
The way your children change you for the better	1 2 3 4 NA

YOUR WORK OR SCHOOL

28. Are you in school or training part-time or full-time?	0. No 1. Yes, Part-time 2. Yes, Full-time
29. Are you currently employed?	0. No -skip to question 34 1. Yes
30. How many hours do you work in a typical week?	_____ hours/week
31. In the past year (52 weeks), how many weeks were you employed (including paid vacation and holidays)?	_____ weeks

Massachusetts School Readiness Study

7. SAMPLE KAP SURVEY FOR PARENTS – MUREKE DUSOME

KNOWLEDGE SCALE					
	<i>Now I am going to read some statements regarding knowledge you may have about literacy. Please tell me whether you strongly agree or disagree, somewhat agree or somewhat disagree. There is no right or wrong answers, they are simply personal views on the topic under consideration.</i>		<i>Ngiye kugusomera interuro ziyanye n'imyumvire ushobora kuba ufite ku byerekeye gusoma. Urambwira niba ubyemera cyane, ubyemera buhoro, ubihakana buhoro cyangwa ubihakana cyane. Nta gisubizo cyiza cyangwa kibi. Urambwira uko ubyumva gusa.</i>		
PKN39	Parents should be involved in teaching their children how to read.	Strongly Agree	Ababyeyi bagomba kugira uruhare mu kwigisha abana babo gusoma.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PKN40	You know how to help your child learn to read.	Strongly Agree	Uzi gufasha umwana wawe kwiga gusoma.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PKN41	Only teachers should teach children to read.	Strongly Agree	Kumenyereza umwana ibitabo n'izindi nyandiko akiri muto ni ingirakamaro.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PKN42	It is important for a child to be exposed to books and other writing from a young age.	Strongly Agree	Abarimu ni bo bonyine bagomba kwigisha abana gusoma.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PKN43	Parents and teachers should work together to teach reading.	Strongly Agree	Ababyeyi n'abanimu bakwiye gufatanya kwigisha gusoma.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999

PKN44	Children should ONLY read to learn	Strongly Agree	Abana bagomba gusoma kugira ngo bige gusa.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PKN45	Children cannot learn to read from their older siblings or friends.	Strongly Agree	Abana ntibashobora kwigishwa gusoma na bakuru babo cyangwa inshuti.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PKN46	Some children do not need to learn how to read.	Strongly Agree	Abana bamwe ntibakeneye kwiga gusoma.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PKN47	There are many benefits to knowing how to read.	Strongly Agree	Kumenya gusoma bifite akamaro kanini.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PKN48	Children can read for fun.	Strongly Agree	Abana bashobora gusoma mu rwego rwo kwishimisha.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PKN49	Children can read for learning.	Strongly Agree	Abana bashobora gusoma bagamije kwiga.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999

PARENT ATTITUDES AND MOTIVATION

NO.	QUESTIONS	RESPONSES	IBIBAZO	IBISUBIZO	CODE / NIMERO
<i>Literacy Attitudes.</i>					
	<i>Now I am going to read some statements regarding your attitudes about literacy. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree. There is no right or wrong answers, they are simply personal views on the topic under consideration.</i>		<i>Ngiye kugusomera interuro zijyanye n'imyumvire ushobora kuba ufite ku byerekeye gusoma. Urambwira niba ubyemera cyane, ubyemera buhoro, ubihakana buhoro cyangwa ubihakana cyane. Nta gisubizo cyiza cyangwa kibi. Urambwira uko ubyumva gusa.</i>		
PAT01	I believe people of my age should read with their children.	Strongly Agree	Nemera ko abantu bo mu kigero cyanjye bakwiye kujya basomera hamwe n'abana babo	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PAT02	Reading a storybook for children is sometimes dull.	Strongly Agree	Rimwe na rimwe gusomera abana ibitabo by'inkuru birarambirana.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PAT03	Schools are entirely responsible for teaching children how to read.	Strongly Agree	Amashuri yonyine ni yo afite inshingano zo kwigisha abana gusoma	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PAT04	I feel comfortable saying NO if someone wants me to buy beer /soft drink instead of storybooks for my children.	Strongly Agree	Iyo umuntu ambwiye ngo mugurire inzoga aho kugurira abana banjye ibitabo by'inkuru NDAMUHAKANIRA nta mususu.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999
PAT05	If a neighbor wants to influence me to leave the teaching of children to teachers, it would be difficult for me to refuse.	Strongly Agree	Umuturanyi aramutse ambwiye ngo uburezi bw'abana banjye mbuharire abarimu, byangora kumuhakanira.	Ndabyemera cyane	1
		Somewhat Agree		Ndabyemera	2
		Somewhat Disagree		Ntabyo nemera	3
		Strongly Disagree		Simbyemera na gato	4
		Don't know / No response		Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	999

PAT06	Both schools and parents are responsible for teaching children how to read.		Amashuri n'ababyeyi, bombi bafite inshingano zo kwigisha abana gusoma.		
PAT07	I feel comfortable telling my closest friends that I do not want to leave reading to teachers.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response	Iyo inshuti zanjye zimbiye ngo uburezi bw'abana banjye mbuharire abarimu ndazihakanira nta mususu.	Ndabyemera cyane Ndabyemera Ntabyo nemera Simbyemera na gato Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	1 2 3 4 999
PAT08	Reading a storybook with a child is educational	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response	Gusomera umwana igitabo cy'inkuru cyangwa gusomera hamwe na we bimufasha kwiga.	Ndabyemera cyane Ndabyemera Ntabyo nemera Simbyemera na gato Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	1 2 3 4 999
PAT09	Reading a storybook is pleasant	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response	Gusoma igitabo cy'inkuru birashimisha.	Ndabyemera cyane Ndabyemera Ntabyo nemera Simbyemera na gato Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	1 2 3 4 999
PAT10	It is a good idea to read a story book with children of 0-6 olds	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response	Ni byiza kuganiriza abana bari hagati y'umwaka umwe n'imyaka itandatu ku gusoma ibitabo by'inkuru	Ndabyemera cyane Ndabyemera Ntabyo nemera Simbyemera na gato Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	2 3 4 999
PAT11	Learning reading skills wait until children start school.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response	Kwiga gusoma byagombye gutangira umwana atangiye ishuri.	Ndabyemera cyane Ndabyemera Ntabyo nemera Simbyemera na gato Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	1 2 3 4 999
PAT12	I believe that Children with disabilities can also attend and participate in the reading club	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response	Numva ko n'abana bafite ubumuga bashobora kwitabira amahuriro yo gusoma	Ndabyemera cyane Ndabyemera Ntabyo nemera Simbyemera na gato Simbizi / Nta gisubizo	1 2 3 4 999

8. KAP SURVEY FOR CHILDREN

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey for Children

Respondent Name _____ Age ____ Village _____

Please select the response that best describes how you feel about the following:

1. I enjoy reading books.

Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Don't know
-------	----------------	----------	------------

2. I feel confident when I read a book out loud to my family members and siblings.

Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Don't know
-------	----------------	----------	------------

3. Children should read books at home and not just at school.

Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Don't know
-------	----------------	----------	------------

4. I read at home...

Everyday	2-3 times a week	Once a week	Once a month
----------	------------------	-------------	--------------

5. If I have free time, I want to:

- a. Read a book
- b. Help with chores
- c. Play outside
- d. Watch TV

6. If a community library were to open in my area, I would go with my friends to borrow books.

Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Don't know
-------	----------------	----------	------------

9. SAMPLE KAP SURVEY FOR CHILDREN – MUREKE DUSOME

Children's Questionnaire (English-Kinyarwanda)		
CHILD KNOWLEDGE		
NO.	QUESTIONS	RESPONSES
I am going to read some statements. Please tell whether those statements are true or false. There is no right or wrong answers, they are simply personal views on the topic under consideration.		
CKN01	An illiterate parent cannot help his/her child learn to read.	TRUE
		FALSE
		Don't know / No response
CKN02	Only literate parents can help their children learn to read.	TRUE
		FALSE
		Don't know / No response
CKN03	You know where to access reading materials in your community.	TRUE
		FALSE
		Don't know / No response
CKN04	By which age do you think a child can start interacting with books? *INTERVIEWER: Enter age in years. Enter 999 for "Don't Know."*	
CKN05	By what age do you think a child should be able to read an age appropriate book by himself/herself? *INTERVIEWER: Enter age in years. Enter 999 for "Don't Know."*	
CKN06	By what age do you think a child should be able to write by himself/herself? *INTERVIEWER: Enter age in years. Enter 999 for "Don't Know."*	
CKN07	By what grade should children be able to read simple sentences like " My mother is cooking"?	Pre-primary
		Primary 1
		Primary 2
		Primary 3
		Primary 4
		Primary 5
		Primary 6
		Older than Primary 6
Don't know / No response		
CKN08	In your opinion, what are the factors that prevent parents from supporting children's reading at home in this community?	Poverty
		Ignorance
		Illiteracy
		Lack of Awareness
		Lack of Time / Parents are busy working or going out

		Parents do not care about children's reading
		Conflict at home
		Other
		Don't know/ No response
CKN09	Specify other factors	
CKN10	Now I am going to read some statements that have to do with reading/literacy, and I want you to tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree with each of the things I say. There is no right or wrong answer it is just your personal view. Let's try some examples first!	
CKN11	"I really like to play football." *Wait for the child to respond. If the child does not know how to respond, help them to understand how you want them to respond.*	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN12	"Doing homework is very fun." *Wait for the child to respond. If the child does not know how to respond, help them to understand how you want them to respond.*	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN13	"Children who disobey their parents should be punished." *Wait for the child to respond. If the child does not know how to respond, help them to understand how you want them to respond.*	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
	Very good! Now I am going to read some more statements and I want you to tell me your opinion Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree.	
CKN15	It is important for a child to be exposed to books and other writing from a young age.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN16	Only teachers should teach children how to read.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN17	Parents should be involved in teaching their children how to read.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response

CKN18	Parents and teachers should work together to support children's reading.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN19	Some children do not need to learn how to read.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN20	There are many benefits to knowing how to read.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN21	Children should ONLY read to learn	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN22	Children cannot learn to read from their older siblings or friends.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN23	Children can read for fun.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN24	Children can read for learning.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response
CKN25	Storybooks are helpful to learn reading.	Strongly Agree
		Somewhat Agree
		Somewhat Disagree
		Strongly Disagree
		Don't know / No response

NO.	QUESTIONS	RESPONSES
CAT01	Now I am going to read some statements regarding attitudes you may have about literacy. Please tell me whether you strongly, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree. There is no right or wrong answers, they are simply personal views on the topic under consideration.	
CAT02	Only schools are responsible for teaching children how to read.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response
CAT03	Schools are responsible for teaching children to read but parents should help occasionally.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response
CAT04	Both schools and parents are responsible for supporting children to read.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response
CAT05	Even if a child can read alone, I still feel that it is the parent role to help him/her read.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response
CAT06	It is difficult to find time to read.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response
CAT07	I feel comfortable saying NO if someone wants my parents to buy beer instead of storybooks for children.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response
CAT08	I feel comfortable telling my parents not to leave teaching me reading to teachers.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response
CAT09	If a child can read alone, their parents do not have to help them read anymore.	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't know / No response

10. COMMUNITY KAP SURVEY

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey

Respondent Name _____ Age ___ Village _____

Please select the response that best describes how you feel about the following:

1. Reading books helps children develop reading skills and children should read every day.

Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Don't know
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2. Children should only read in school and not at home.

Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Don't know
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3. Parents should read and interact with books with their children because it helps develop their literacy skills.

Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Don't know
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4. If my child has spare time, I want her to:

- a. Read a book
- b. Help with chores
- c. Play outside
- d. Watch TV

5. If a community library were to open in my area, I would go with my child to borrow books.

Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Don't know
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11. GRADE 2 WORD RECOGNITION ASSESSMENT

Directions: This assessment is for children in grade 2 or 7-8 years of age. Provide the child a sheet with the sight words written in large size font. Ask them to read each word out loud, going from top to bottom.

Scoring: On your sheet, circle the words the child does not read correctly. Calculate the words read correctly as a percentage of the total.

Always	Gave	These
Around	Goes	Those
Because	Green	Upon
Been	Its	Us
Before	Made	Use
Best	Many	Very
Both	Off	Wash
Buy	Or	Which
Call	Pull	Why
Cold	Read	Wish
Does	Right	Work
Don't	Sing	Would
Fast	Sit	Write
First	Sleep	Your
Five	Tell	
Found	Their	

[Second grade sight words taken from Dolch Sight Word List.](#)

12. COMMUNITY READING INTERVIEW

Date_____Village name_____

Name of interviewer_____

Name of interviewee_____ Role or title_____

If community library exists ask these questions	If a new community library was established recently ask these questions
When was the community library established?	Was a library established during the R@H implementation period?
Where is the library located?	Where is the library located?
Who established it and where does it get its funding from?	If yes, who established it and how was it funded?
How many books does the library have and where were they purchased or donated from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community donations International donations School/community based fund Through NGOs Through INGOs 	How many books does the library have and where were they purchased or donated from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community donations International donations School/community based fund Through NGOs Through INGOs
Are there titles for all ages?	Are there titles for all ages?
How many community members use the library? How many of these are children?	How many community members use the library? How many of these are children?
Has library use ...since R@H started <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Stayed the same Gone down 	Who manages the library?
What is the plan for replenishing books when they are lost or in poor condition?	What is the plan for replenishing books when they are lost or in poor condition?
What hours and days is the library open?	What hours and days is the library open?



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