



## Dear Community Partner,

On behalf of Children First Groton, I would like to introduce you to our literacy initiative, **Prescription to Read!** With the goal of helping young families better understand the importance of early exposure to books and reading, our organization partnered with local pediatricians' offices to distribute books to families at every well-child visit from birth through the age of five. The books are accompanied by a "Reading Tips" brochure that helps explain reading strategies and benefits to adults, as well as guide parents to other great books and their local libraries.

The response from families and the pediatrician offices to the **Prescription to Read** program has been overwhelmingly positive in its first few months and we are eager to ensure the continuation of the program. However, the popularity of the program has caused a significant increase in the number of books needed to continue the support of the **Prescription to Read** program. At just one local pediatrician's office, the doctors are distributing 60 books a week which adds up to over 3,000 books in one year! As a result, we are reaching out to local organizations to help us collect the books we need to support the **Prescription to Read** program. A majority of the books we currently distribute are acquired through new and gently used book donations and collected at designated book drop-offs around Groton. But these donations are insufficient to continue to support the program on their own! We need your help.

**How can you help?** Please consider these options!

- **Sponsor a drop-off box at your location!** We will supply your organization with designated, labeled box (es) and signs and a Children First Groton representative will come to collect the donated books at scheduled times or whenever you let us know the box is full. All you need to do is announce the book drive to your organization!
- **Hold a book drive (or several!) to collect books at any of your organizations events!** A book drive is a great way to provide your members and their families an opportunity to support early learning and literacy for Groton children! We can even supply you with the book drive announcements and collection bins!
- **Direct \$ donation to Children First Groton** in order to purchase books we will distribute through the program. A great way to contribute without any extra time or space on your part. The donation guarantees that the children receiving books will receive new, quality books purchased specifically for the initiative and possibly in other languages! As soon as the donation is processed we will send you a certificate and let you know exactly how many books we purchased and how many families your donation will potentially impact!

**Checks should be made out to: Children First Groton (please put "Prescription to Read" on the subject line)**

**Please send \$ donations to: Children First Groton c/o LEARN, 44 Hatchedts Hill Rd, Old Lyme, CT 06371**

When you help Children First Groton support **Prescription to Read!**, you are directly supporting increased literacy in Groton children. Studies are clear about the benefits of reading to babies and young children and you can help make a difference!

- Young children who are read to regularly by family members experience multiple benefits. These include boosts in their literacy development, as well as social-emotional gains, and increased

likelihood of later overall school success

- Children who lack a strong foundation of language awareness and literacy skills early in life are more likely to fall behind in school, and are more likely to drop out.
- Shared parent-child book reading during children's preschool years leads to higher reading achievement in elementary school, as well as greater enthusiasm for reading and learning.

With your help, we will be able to put great books into the hands of Groton children and their families! **If you are interested in contributing to this program, please contact Christy McElroy at 860-445-8151 or [cmcelroy@tvconnect.net](mailto:cmcelroy@tvconnect.net)**

Thank you for your interest in **Prescription to Read!**

Sincerely,

**Christy McElroy**

Children First Groton, City of Groton Neighborhood Liaison and Program Manager for **Prescription to Read**