



Mini-Grant Application

The Chatham County Partnership for Children, local host agency for the Raising A Reader program, is offering early childhood professionals and their schools an opportunity to strengthen their families' engagement in "book cuddling" with children from birth-Kindergarten. The program addresses a national crisis: one in three children enters kindergarten lacking basic pre-reading skills.

The Goal

Raising A Reader is designed to serve young children in environments where poverty, language barriers, limited formal education for parents, and other issues create challenges to regular book sharing. The goal is to substantially increase the number of families that frequently and routinely share picture books with their infant and preschool children.

You're Role

Raising A Reader is fun and easy to use. We invite professionals to rotate bright red book bags filled with award-winning, beautiful picture books into their children's homes. We train these providers to teach "read-aloud" strategies to parents.

When this multicultural, multilingual program is fully embraced; evaluations demonstrate parents reading to their children frequently and children entering kindergarten at twice the readiness of children from similar backgrounds who did not participate in Raising A Reader.

The Process

The following mini-grant application is designed to identify those early childhood programs who are most passionate about bringing Raising A Reader to their families and who demonstrate a commitment to sustaining the program over time. The winners of these grants will participate in the Raising A Reader program, including training and use of program materials.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Ward

Raising A Reader Coordinator

Chatham County Partnership for Children

Date: _____

CENTER OR SCHOOL INFORMATION

Agency/Program Name	
Name of Agency/ Program Director	
Site Contact Person for RAR	
Site Contact's Direct Phone	
Site Contact's Email Address	
Site Address	
City / State / Zip Code	
Mailing Address	
City / State / Zip Code	
Phone	
Fax	
Email	

PROGRAM/SITE DESCRIPTION

I care for children in a:

- Family Childcare Home
- Pre-school or childcare setting
- Home Visiting Program
- Other (please specify):

How many infant/toddler/preschool classes or groups do you have in your program?	
How many children do you have in each class?	
How many children do you have in total?	
What is the maximum capacity at your center agency?	
Are you open Year-Round? (yes or no)	

<p>Please explain why you wish to implement the Raising A Reader program.</p>	
<p>Describe how you will introduce the program to parents and children.</p>	
<p>Describe how you will integrate the program into your routines and curriculum.</p>	
<p>My organization requests the following Book Bag Kits based on the number of children served:</p>	
<p>Why should you receive priority for a Raising A Reader mini-grant?</p>	
<p>How will Raising A Reader help you attain your goals for the upcoming year?</p>	
<p>What part of Raising A Reader do you think will have the biggest impact on your families and why?</p>	

Thank you for your time in completing this application. Please return it to:

Chatham County Partnership for Children
200 Sanford Highway, Suite 4
Pittsboro, NC 27312



CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION AND COMMITMENT

By signing below, I certify that I am authorized to make commitments for this organization.

I also certify that as the leader of this organization I will ensure that all teachers who have signed the following commitment to success will have the support from this organization that is necessary to fulfill their commitments to Raising A Reader.

Commitment to Success

1. **Make the RAR program a central part of your curriculum.** Share RAR books with children at school and they will share them with their families at home. Teach care of the materials so book bag kits last 5-7 years.
2. **Introduce the program to your children, families and staff** as taught at your first implementer training, the Kickoff Orientation.
3. **Attend two RAR implementer trainings each year.** Learn new strategies. Discuss relevant research.
4. **Carefully manage the book bag check-out system and care of the books.**
5. **Offer at least two family literacy gatherings** to develop caregivers' book sharing skills.
6. **Work with Chatham County Partnership for Children to connect participating families to the library.**

Organization Name: _____

Signature of Authorized Applicant: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____