

January 23, 2015

My name is Yazmin Hernandez, I am the Scheduling Coordinator/Administrative Assistant in the Primary Care Department at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. It is a pleasure to be given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Reach Out and Read program.

Although I have been familiar with Reach Out and Read through the years of working at the Primary Care Center, three and half years ago I became a mother for the first time and my journey with the program began. I stand before you today as a parent advocate for the program.

It is such a joy to see my children excited about receiving a book each time they come in for their physical appointments and asking to read their new book as they are getting their checkup. My three year old received the book "Baby Faces" at her nine month visit. We have read this book together many times. She is now at the point where she has completely memorized the book and to make it more interesting, began making up her own sentences using her sister's name. If the word is "Happy" then she says "Yeilin is happy". To hear others speak highly of your children's development and speech has to be one of the proudest moments for any parent. It is even more exciting when the enthusiasm from your three year old rubs off on your two year old who before the age of two knew all of her colors and all of her shapes. The program has not only been beneficial to my children but it has taught my husband and I so much in the way we interact with our daughters.

The physician's in the Primary Care Clinic are very dedicated to the Reach Out and Read program, it is extremely inspirational to see the impact in not only my children but in the other children who are gleaming after their appointments and holding on tight to their brand new book.

As an employee of Connecticut Children's Medical Center and as a parent I show my complete support for the Reach Out and Read program. Thank you for the privilege of being here today and allowing me to share my experiences with this great program.