

WHAT PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING:

"It allows me to do something for my son, even though I'm not there."

"It keeps me in touch with my daughter and she gets to hear my voice any time she wants to play the tape."

"My youngest child plays the tape over and over again. The last book was about learning your A.B.C's."

"Although communication with my children is limited, this program has given me a feeling of satisfaction and fulfillment just knowing that I, as a loving Father, have attempted to bridge the distance."

"I don't have any other opportunity to see or talk to my son. The Read-To-Me Program helps me reach out to my son, so he gets to know who I am."

"His mother told me he would ask to play the tape while he looked at books three times a day. Makes me wish I was home to spend more time with family."

"When I was at home I used to read to my sons every night. Because you've given me the chance to read to them again I know the peace and joy it brings to their hearts and mine also."



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READ-TO-ME

A cooperative effort of the Indiana State Library & Indiana Dept. of Correction



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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Read-to-Me literacy program gives incarcerated parents the opportunity to share the joys of reading with their children.

Through this program, offenders discover the personal value and personal connections for both the child and themselves in developing literacy skills. The program allows the incarcerated parent, regardless of his or her educational level, to become the child's first teacher.

The program has four primary objectives:

- To break the cycle of incarceration and low literacy
- To educate parents to become their child's first teacher
- To instruct parents in the use of children's books to teach the children in their lives
- To make personal connections with the children during the period of incarceration.



The State Library provides children's books, DVDs, CD-ROMs, and postage for mailing the recordings and books. Grant funds, publisher donations, and local donations of new and gently used books enable the program to continue.

Institutional librarians may request books selected by offenders for children up to age 12. Offenders work with the facility librarians, teachers, and other facility employees or volunteers to record the books they select. Before recording, the offender must complete a family history survey that addresses his or her reading experiences. Once the recordings, books and surveys are returned to the State Library, the reading materials and a letter acknowledging the collaboration between the State Library and the correctional facility is then sent to the child's guardian. Once the child receives the materials, contact is often made with the parent/sender giving feedback via phone, letter or visit. After communicating with the child, the offender completes a follow-up survey which is returned to the Indiana State Library.