



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
INDIAN STREAM HEALTH CENTER
141 Corliss Lane
Colebrook, NH 03576
603-237-8336
Contact: Shirley Powell, CEO
603-388-2416
December 8, 2009

Indian Stream Health Center and the Board of Directors are proud to announce the start of the Reach Out and Read program. This program promotes early literacy and school readiness by giving a new book to children from 6 months to 5 years of age when they come in for their well child visit. It also encourages families to read to their children.

Gretchen Hunsberger from the Reach Out and Read Program visited ISHC on November 12th to provide a training on the program for all interested ISHC staff members. There was a strong turnout for the program and an even stronger response from interested staff members. The staff was very eager to learn more about the program. During the training many were reminded of their childhood experiences of being read to by their parents. Some classic children's books such as "Good Night Moon" brought these memories back with great clarity.

"With the staff being so passionate about the program we have no doubts about it's success," said Shirley Powell CEO of ISHC. The providers at ISHC will be giving children a book with their well child visit that compliments their developmental level. For instance 6 month to 18 month olds will receive board books. These are books that are designed with infants in mind as they are made of sturdier material in case something gets spilled on them, they get tossed around the room, or they get put in the baby's mouth. In the books there are pictures of baby's faces which fascinate the infants. The books are designed for all the various developmental levels between 6 months and 5 years.

In correspondence with this ISHC has expanded its' waiting room library to include more updated children's books. The waiting room is now more reading friendly with plenty of books for parents to choose from while waiting for their child's appointment. Also the surplus of books in the waiting room will be used as an extra supply for older siblings of children that come in for their well child visit. That way all children that come in to visit even those that are past the age limit to qualify for the program can still leave with a book.

Reading is a fundamental skill in the learning and education process. Developing a love of reading from an early age helps children to succeed in school. Also the process of families reading to their children encourages a stronger family dynamic. ISHC provider Mary Judd said, "Reading is a great way to strengthen families and help children to grow. I am very happy to participate in a program like this one and look forward to the effect it has on the children that we serve in the community."

If you would like to learn more about the Reach Out and Read program please contact Danielle Hibbard at 603-388-2485.