

2026

SCIENCE OF READING:

*Findings Report on a Family
Engagement Pilot*





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Introduction

Last spring, Brooklyn Book Bodega, ExpandedED Schools, NYC Reads Neighborhood Initiative, and Reading Partners came together to launch the Science of Reading program, a six-part virtual literacy series designed to help families gain the tools and resources needed to support young readers.

The learning series connected families across the city with engaging literacy-focused events, expert conversations, and opportunities to grow their home libraries through free book distributions and community book parties. Strong participation and a positive community response demonstrated the value of creating accessible, family-centered literacy experiences that meet families where they are.

This report highlights the reach and impact of the learning series, showcasing how collaboration can expand access to literacy resources and identifying opportunities to continue investing in and expanding this work through future partnerships.

Virtual Workshop Topics

1. **The Challenges of Learning to Read**
2. **The Five Domains of Literacy**
3. **Building Vocabulary & Letter Knowledge**
4. **Developing Word Consciousness**
5. **Phonics**
6. **Building Comprehension by Making Connections**

“I thought the session was very helpful. I especially loved the examples that were provided for how we can engage our students with reading inside and outside of the home.”



Program Impact

“I now have the knowledge to help both my elementary students. Kindergartener to start reading, and 5th grader - to advance reading skills and comprehension.”

Total Registration

229

Average Satisfaction

4.8/5

82% of participants
report 5/5 satisfaction



“I appreciate getting the different strategies (games) to introduce reading/literacy in an engaging way throughout the day.”



Brooklyn Book Bodega Big Book Parties

East New York - Arlington Library

- 300 books distributed
- 70 people in attendance
- Brooklyn Book Bodega average rating- 9.8/10
- Percent of families reporting too few books- 21.1%

“Great event that really encourages early readers. Thank you for the lovely programming!”

Harlem- Harlem Library

- 300 books distributed
- 75 people in attendance
- Brooklyn Book Bodega average rating- 9.8/10
- Percent of families reporting too few books- 30 %

“Thank you for doing this in our community. It is nice to see this close to home.”

South Jamaica- South Jamaica Library

- 300 books distributed
- 50 people in attendance
- Brooklyn Book Bodega average rating- 9.8/10
- Percent of families reporting too few books- 39.3%

“I think this kind of celebration is good for all and it should be more and more.”



Meet the Partners

Brooklyn Book Bodega

Brooklyn Book Bodega provides access to and ownership of books, builds community, and creates a passion for learning through free events and literacy-based community programming.

Brooklyn Book Bodega's mission is to increase the number of 100+ book homes for kids 0-18 in NYC because reading is transformative. Since 2018, Brooklyn Book Bodega has helped thousands of New Yorkers start or add to their home libraries by giving out more than 850,000 books.



ExpandedED Schools

ExpandedED Schools is dedicated to ensuring that all young people in New York City have access to enriching programs that affirm their identities, teach them valuable skills, and spark new possibilities in and out of the school day.

In order to achieve this mission, ExpandedED provides K-12 programs with curricula and support; trains educators; and advances the sector through policy and research.



NYC Reads Neighborhood Initiative

NYC Reads Neighborhood Initiative makes a promise to our families and to our communities to promote early literacy everywhere through workshops, tutoring, read-alouds, book give-aways, and more.

Our organizations each offer families and children (from birth to 5th grade) free early literacy resources in homes, daycares, pediatric offices, schools, libraries, and other public spaces, like local stores and parks.



Reading Partners

Reading Partners collaborates with schools and communities to deliver proven, individualized tutoring and a range of other literacy support to elementary students and their families. Through partnerships and innovation, we meet students and families where they are: in libraries, recreation centers, youth organizations, and at home. Since 2011, Reading Partners NYC has tutored 9,821 students, and more than 12,000 volunteers have delivered more than 368,000 individualized tutoring sessions.

