



Nomination

Why hasn't this expanded: scalable pilot programs

St Joseph's Urban FHT

Reach Out And Read (ROAR): Addressing Literacy in Primary Care



Reach Out And Read (ROAR) is an evidence-based clinical intervention delivered in medical clinics at select well-baby and well-child visits from 6 months to 5 years of age. It is an early literacy initiative that reaches younger children and their families by providing literacy advice, age-appropriate books and connecting them with community resources to promote literacy. ROAR was introduced at St. Joseph's Health Centre in June 2017, with the objective of reducing our vulnerable patients' risk of poor literacy skills by improving reading habits and use of community literacy resources. The ROAR model has had wide uptake in the United States, however in Canada it seems to be much less well known despite the significant evidence base supporting its benefits and the recommendation from the Canadian Pediatric Society.

Patients and families are directly involved in the evaluation of the initiative through the documentation of ROAR visits, where we document at each visit how many days per week parents are reading with children, as well as whether they have visited a public library or Early Years Centre. Our FHT uses Practice Solutions Suite (PSS). Further research project on ROAR would include assessing patient and family satisfaction with the program.