

## **UC Davis**

### **Pediatrics**

#### **Title**

Impact of Literacy Advocacy Among Low-Income, Firstborn Infants in the Newborn Nursery: A Pilot Randomized Control Study

#### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3k72k2t0>

#### **Authors**

Sayaseng, Jenny

Hoyt-Austin, Adrienne

Cheng, Jessica

et al.

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#### **Data Availability**

The data associated with this publication are not available for this reason: NA

## Introduction

- Reach Out and Read (ROR) program is an evidence-based method for incorporating literacy education into pediatric visits and teaching parents the importance of reading aloud, starting at the 6 month well child visit <sup>1</sup>
- Studies of the effect of encouraging reading during the birth hospitalization on shared reading behaviors are limited

## Objective

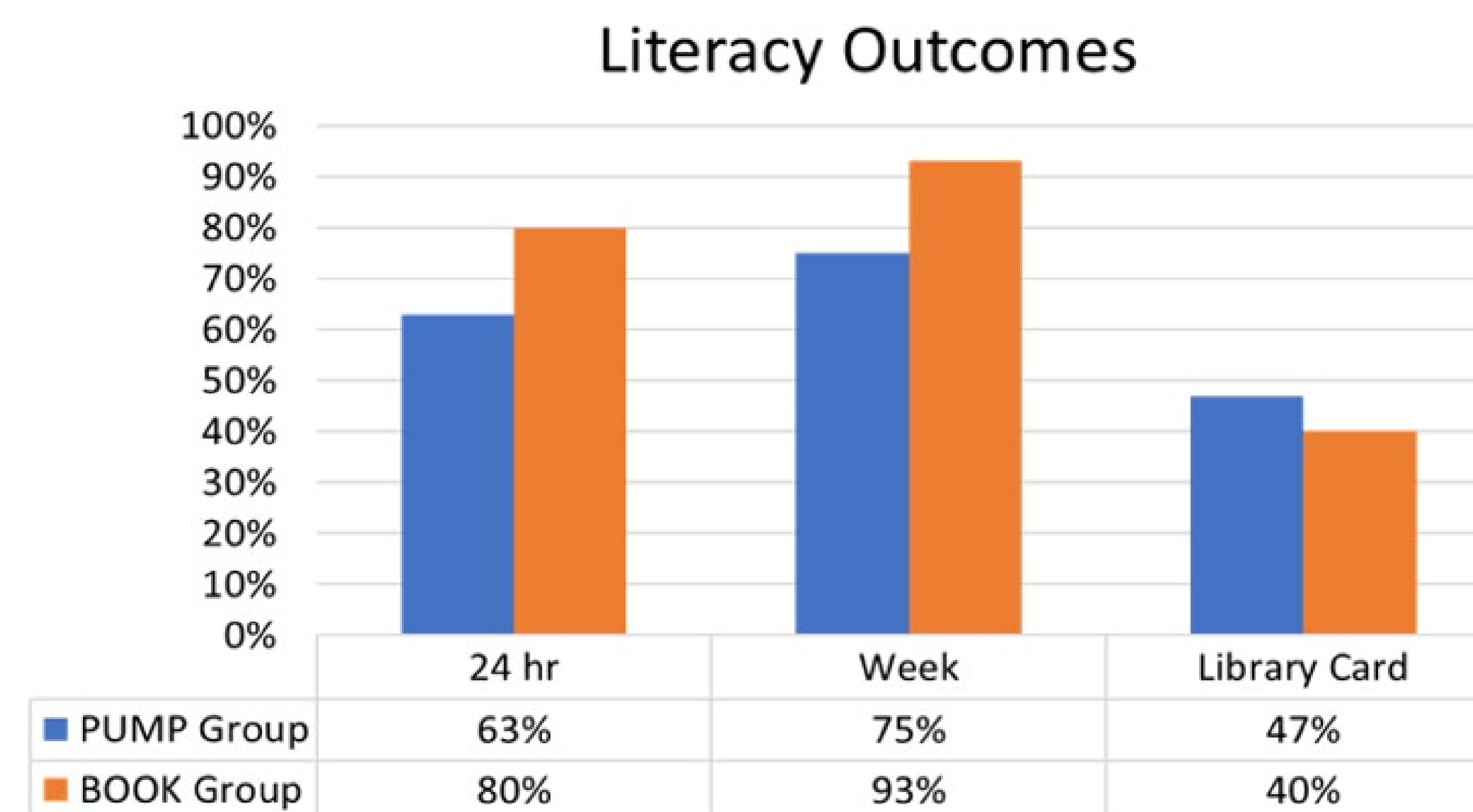
- To test how providing children's books at hospital discharge to low-income, first-time mothers affects time spent reading to the newborn at 3 months (12 weeks)
- This study reports on the attention control from a previously published randomized controlled study to examine the impact of giving a breast pump on breastfeeding outcomes <sup>2</sup>
- **Hypothesis:** Giving children board books and reading instructions during the birth hospitalization will increase shared reading behaviors

## Methods

- Clinicaltrials.gov ID: NCT03192241
- Pilot randomized controlled trial
  - Group 1: Manual breast pump, written instructions for pump use
  - Group 2: Children's board book, information about reading
- Participants: low-income, first-time parents who delivered at UC Davis Medical Center
- Outcomes: shared reading with baby in the last 24 hours and prior week, library membership

## Results

Patient Factors	Pump, control (n=30), n (%)	Book, intervention (n=29), n (%)
<b>Race</b>		
White	19 (63)	14 (48)
Black	4 (13)	5 (17)
Hispanic	10 (33)	11 (38)
<b>Mother's Education</b>		
High school grad or GED	9 (30)	8 (28)
Some college or Associates	11 (37)	9 (31)
<b>Father's Education</b>		
High school grad or GED	13 (43)	16 (55)
Some college or Associates	9 (30)	9 (31)
<b>Marital status</b>		
Single/Never married	15 (50)	15 (51)
Married/Live in partner	12 (40)	13 (45)
<b>Insurance</b>		
Medicaid/MediCal	18 (60)	15 (51)



- Shared reading within last 24 hours at 12 week follow up (95% CIs -0.16 to 0.49, p=0.43)
- Shared reading within last 7 days at 12 week follow up (95% CIs -0.10 to 0.46, p=0.33)
- Library card (95% CIs -0.42 to 0.30, p=1.00)



## Conclusions

- Receipt of a book and having a conversation about reading to babies prior to birth hospitalization discharge with low-income, first-time parents led to more instances of shared reading, but the differences among groups were not statistically significant
- Distributing printed information about obtaining a library card during birth hospitalization did not improve library card registration

## Next Steps

- Impact and importance of giving children's board books at birth rather than waiting for the standard 6 month well child visit
- Longitudinal studies to analyze how giving children's books during birth hospitalization impacts developmental stages as children grow
  - Language comprehension
  - Social skills
  - Cognitive development
- QI projects to assess how ROR programs are implemented in various settings, and how systemic factors such as budget and time providers have to spend on shared reading discussions may differ across the country

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  5. The funders/sponsor did not participate in the work.
- The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views of the NIH

## References

1. Klass P, Dreyer BP, Mendelsohn AL. Reach out and read: literacy promotion in pediatric primary care. *Adv Pediatr.* 2009;56:11-27. doi: 10.1016/j.yapd.2009.08.009. PMID: 19968940; PMCID: PMC3095493.
2. Hoyt-Austin, A. E., Cheng, J. H., Moua, H., Tancredi, D. J., Chantry, C. J., & Kair, L. R. (2023). Providing Low-Income Women With a Manual Pump: A Pilot Study. *Hospital pediatrics, 13*(2), 115–124.