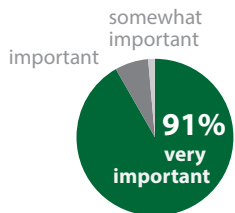


Read to the Children: Promoting Family Literacy in Colorado's Prisons

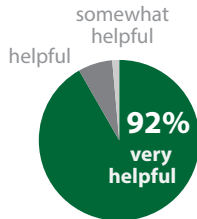


Since 1999, the Read to the Children (RTC) program has allowed offenders in Colorado's state prisons to send young family members a book accompanied by a recording of the offender reading it. RTC is a collaboration between the Colorado State Library and the Colorado Department of Corrections. In the past year, around 1,900 offenders and 3,200 children participated in RTC. Here we present survey results from 253 caregivers¹ and 366 offenders who participated in RTC between 2013-2016 to find out how they feel about the program. Learn more about RTC at <http://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/read-to-children/>.

Offenders told us:



How **important** is RTC?



How helpful is RTC as a way to **connect** with your child?



Would you **recommend** this program to others?



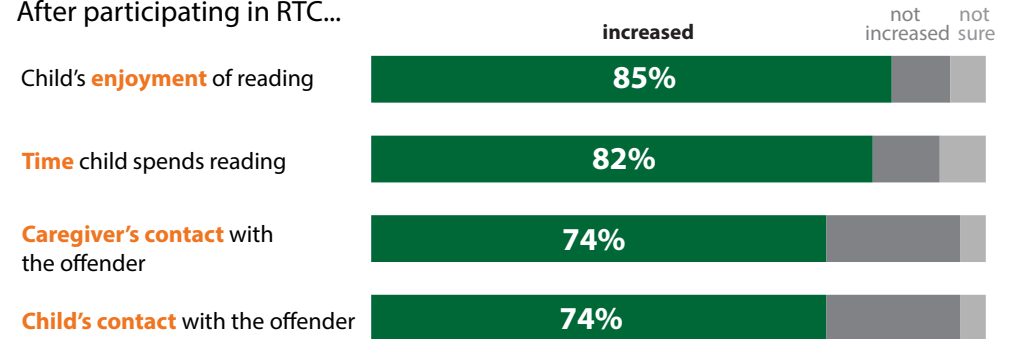
"It's hard to parent from prison and having an opportunity like this is very special to me."

"As my only outlet to maintain 'normal' routine its [sic] awesome. I use [sic] to read to my kids every night. My kids love the books - my son is at the top of his class in reading."

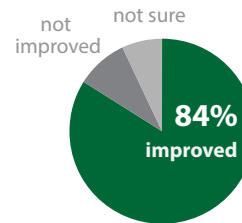
"It has changed the way I do my time. To me Read to the Children program is priceless and has improved my relationship with my daughter and grandkids."

Caregivers told us:

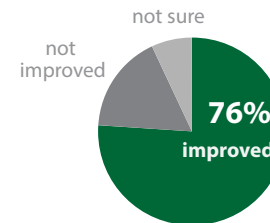
After participating in RTC...



How did caregivers rate the following?



Offender's relationship with their **child**



Caregiver's relationship with the offender

"Priceless program with a tremendous impact keeping a connection between my son & his daddy."

"Each child in the world deserves to know and connect with both parents and this program helps to do that."

¹The caregiver is the person primarily responsible for the child participating in RTC