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## BACKGROUND

Anticipatory guidance about reading and distribution of books during primary care clinic visits is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). To incorporate this into the inpatient neurodevelopmental care of children with congenital heart disease, we implemented a novel program "Books@Heart" at the Texas Children's Hospital Heart Center and present the parental perspective.

## PURPOSE

We aim to assess parental response and satisfaction with the inpatient neurodevelopmental initiative "Books@Heart" and identify areas for improvement.

## METHODS

We launched "Books@Heart" in February 2021 for all infants with congenital or acquired heart disease, cardiomyopathy, or arrhythmia who are admitted to our Heart Center. Each family receives a book, reading tracking calendar, and guidance about reading at ages corresponding to recommended well-child checks (Figure 1). At least 2 weeks after receiving the first book, anonymous feedback was solicited from parents through a survey to provide feedback on satisfaction with the program, perceived barriers to reading, reading habits pre- and post-Books@Heart, and any additional feedback.



## BOOKS@HEART

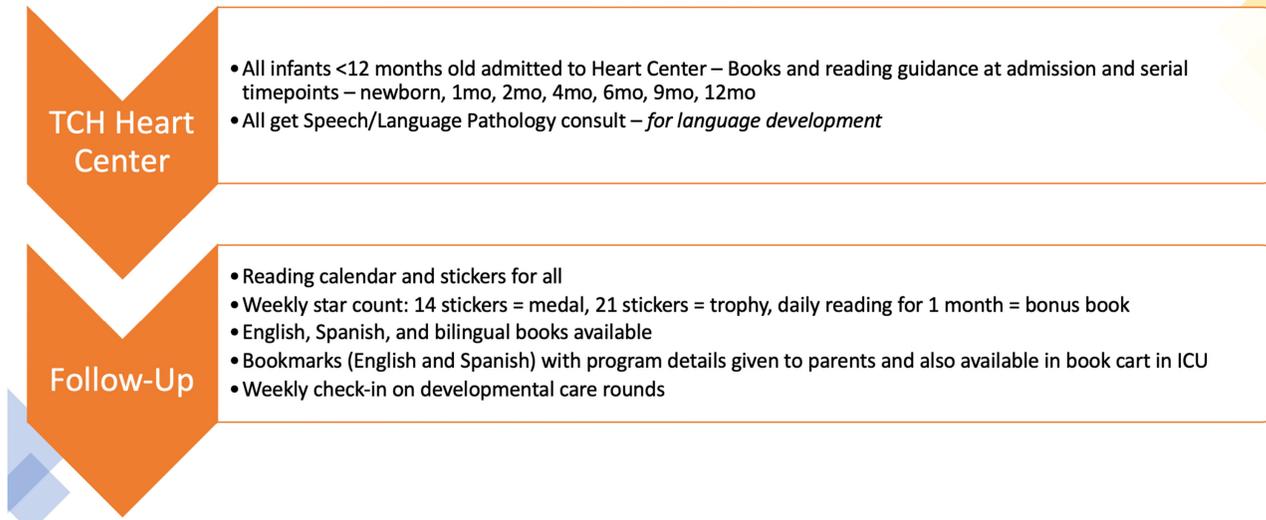


Fig 1: Books@Heart Parental Feedback Survey Data

QUESTION	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	RESPONSES				
Are you satisfied with the type of books and information you received through Books@Heart? <sup>1</sup>	n = 33	94% (31/33) Very Satisfied	3% (1/33) Somewhat satisfied	3% (1/33) Unsure		
Have there been any barriers to reading to your child in the hospital? <sup>1</sup>	n = 22	68% (15/22) No Barriers	14% (3/22) Didn't know I was allowed to read	9% (2/22) There is never enough time	5% (1/22) I'm worried I'm in the way of medical care	5% (1/22) I don't have books to read to them
<b>Do you agree with the following statements?<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
Reading to my child helps me feel more connected and involved in their care	n = 19	89% (17/19)	11% (2/19)	0	0	0
Books@Heart has improved the patient experience at Texas Children's Hospital	n = 17	53% (9/17)	47% (8/17)	0	0	0
<b>On average, how many times did you read to your child?<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>Never</b>	<b>A few times a month</b>	<b>1-2 times per week</b>	<b>3-5 times a week</b>	<b>Daily</b>
Before Books@Heart	n = 22	14% (3/22)	5% (1/22)	27% (6/22)	27% (6/22)	27% (6/22)
After Books@Heart	n = 20	0% (0/22)	10% (2/20)	20% (4/20)	15% (3/20)	55% (11/20)
<b>How many books did you have for your child at home/in the hospital?<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>None</b>	<b>1-5 books</b>	<b>5-10 books</b>	<b>Too many to count</b>	
Before Books@Heart	n = 22	14% (3/22)	32% (7/22)	27% (6/22)	27% (6/22)	
After Books@Heart	n = 20	10% (2/10)	30% (6/20)	30% (6/20)	30% (6/20)	

1- Questions included in first edition of feedback questionnaire  
2- Questions added in second edition of feedback questionnaire  
3- Questions added in third edition of feedback questionnaire

Fig 2: Timeline and structure of Books@Heart Program

## RESULTS

- 33 feedback forms completed with 20 completed fully out of 186 families
- 94% (31/33) of respondents reported being very satisfied with the information and books received through the program.
- 100% (22/22) strongly agreed or agreed that the program helped them feel more connected and involved in their child's care.
- 100% (17/17) strongly agreed or agreed that Books@Heart improved their experience at the hospital.
- 68% (15/22) did not identify any barriers to reading to their child in the hospital
- 17% (3/22) reported that they did not know they were allowed to read to their child and 9% (2/22) reported feeling that "there is never enough time".
- There was a significant improvement in the self-reported frequency of reading after being introduced to Books@Heart (p = 0.042) with the proportion reading to their child daily increasing from 25% (5/20) to 55% (11/20).

## CONCLUSION

- An inpatient early childhood literacy program in a heart center is favorably received by families.
- There are positive impacts on family engagement and experience.
- There is a significant increase in self-reported reading frequency after the launch of the program
- Anecdotally, families over time were forgetful or unfamiliar with the program, leaving an opportunity for re-education
- Larger studies with prospective surveys are needed to assess impact of inpatient developmental care initiatives on long-term attitudes, behaviors, and outcomes.
- We were limited by a low response rate with opportunity to capture more families over time.