



## Create a Virtual Storytime Library for Vulnerable Children!

New Alternatives for Children (NAC) is a child welfare agency that offers strength-based social services, medical and mental healthcare and a wide variety of wrap-around services. We serve families that have at least one child with special needs, often in combination with mental health, behavioral and/or developmental diagnoses as well.

Despite the Covid-19 crisis, NAC's doors have remained opened and staff is working hard to engage and support our children and families during this difficult time. As you might imagine, the NAC community is facing very real challenges such as:

- Caregivers needing respite from providing childcare 24/7.
- Vulnerable children at increased risk of domestic violence.
- Students struggling with the challenges of remote learning with limited resources.
- Clients with ongoing mental health issues presenting exacerbated feelings of depression, isolation and fear.

NAC's social workers are at the frontline and in contact with every client and family – either through remote calls or in-person visits. Education Services specialists are working tirelessly to maintain the quality of educational support for our children and youth.

We believe more than ever, this is a time to promote the importance of literacy in the home. In response to the current pandemic, NAC will be bringing **“Story (Any)Time”** to our children. We are building a library with uploaded videos of staff and volunteers reading stories out loud. The children can log on and listen to your story – at any time!

### **To become a volunteer, just follow these simple steps:**

1. Record yourself (audio or visual) reading your favorite children's book.  
If you don't own such a book – check out this NYPL [link](#) to get an ebook.
2. If you have a pet, get them to snuggle with you and bring extra comfort to our children!
3. Many NAC clients are bilingual learners, so we welcome readings in Spanish too.
4. Please provide a very short explanation about why you like your chosen book.
5. When you have finished your recording, please email [volunteers@nackidscan.org](mailto:volunteers@nackidscan.org).
6. After we receive your email, we will send instructions on "How To Upload" your story.

Stories bring people together, even in times of isolation. Our children and youth are aged 0-21, and you are never too old to enjoy a great tale. By sharing your favorite story with NAC children, you are not only opening their eyes to the magic, joy, and beauty in a compelling book – but also reminding them there are many people who care!