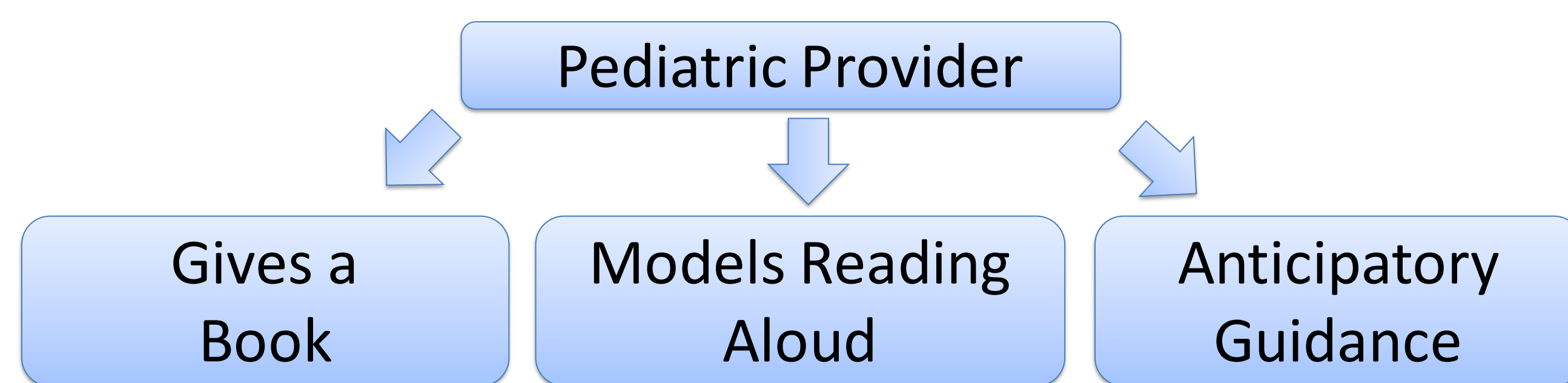


## Background & Significance

- 90% of the brain's function and structure is developed by age 5 (Cao et al., 2017).
- Repeated word exposure, such as reading, particularly before age 5 greatly impacts literacy, language, spatial reasoning, math, and self-regulation skills, as well as behavioral and cognitive influences later in life (Lore et al., 2018).
- Reach Out and Read (ROR) is an early literacy intervention program in which providers integrate books into child well visits from 6 months to 5 years (Fricke, 2016).
- The components of the ROR include:



- With the rapid transition to telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic, little information is known on how telemedicine impacts ROR.
- Insufficient published research on ROR via telemedicine.

## Purpose Statement

- To assess the impact of telemedicine on the implementation of the Reach Out and Read (ROR) program.

## Methods

- In this quality improvement (QI) initiative, descriptive statistical methods were applied to secondary data from an anonymous survey N=7, via Qualtrics distributed to primary care pediatricians in a clinic by a local university to identify barriers and areas for improving the ROR program via a telemedicine platform.
- The goal of this analysis was to develop recommendations on best practices for implementing ROR using telemedicine based on the 7 survey responses.

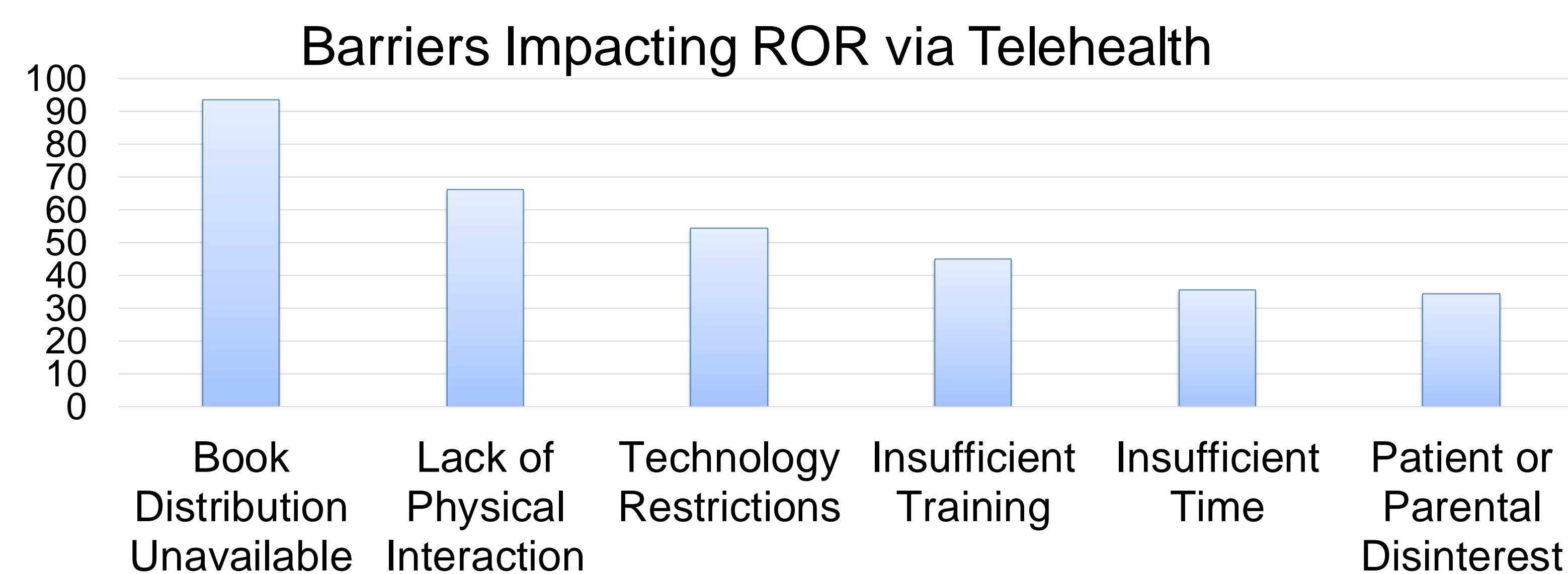
## Measures

- Awareness of telemedicine options for achieving ROR objectives
- The perceived need for ROR during telemedicine visits during COVID-19
- Measures of ROR compliance on ROR objectives during Telemedicine well-visits.
- Perceived impact telemedicine has on implementing ROR
- Rank specific barriers to implementing ROR via Telemedicine
- Telemedicine specific needs to improve ROR implementation



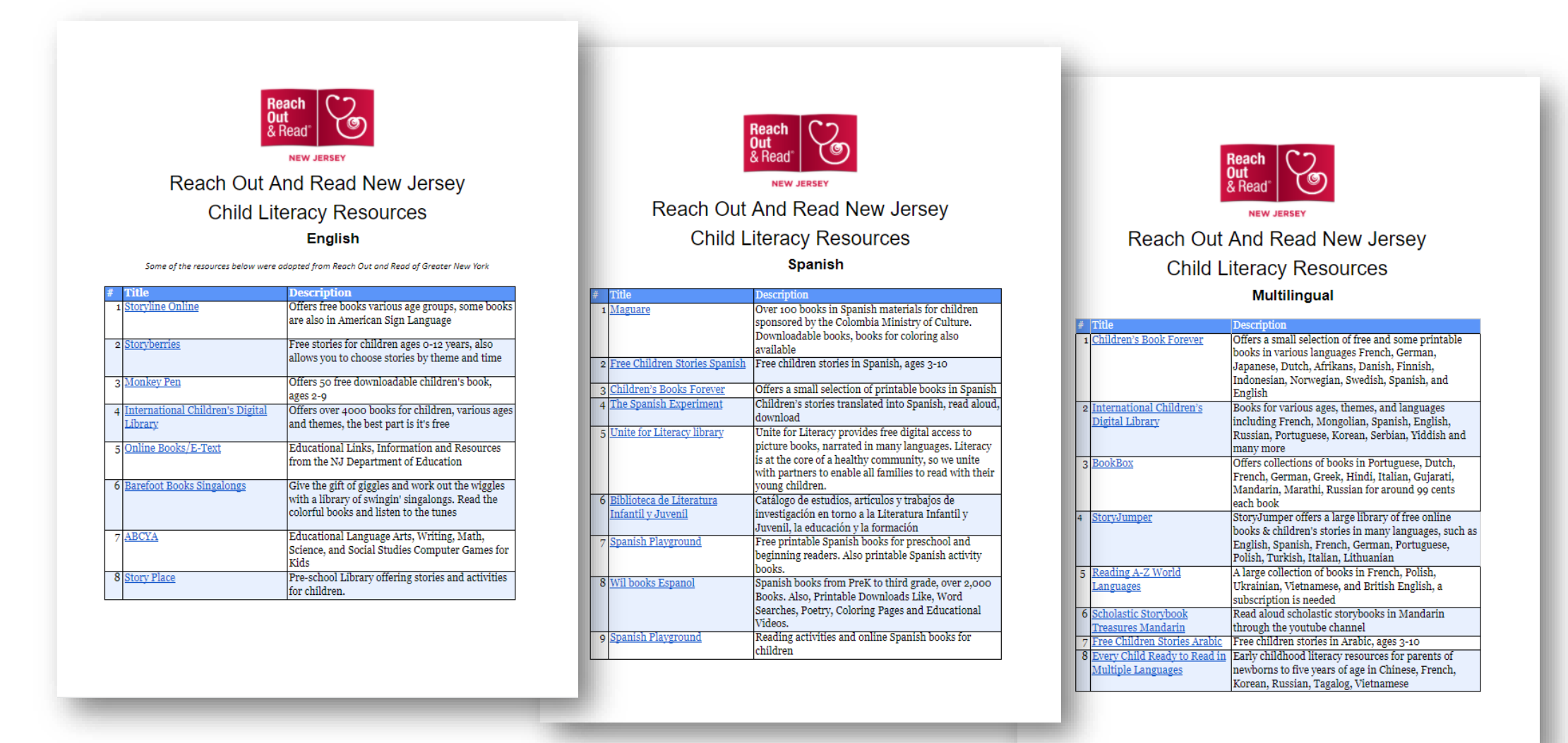
## Results

- Findings showed that:
  - Telemedicine does impact ROR.
  - 71% of pediatricians agreed that it is extremely important to provide the ROR program at telehealth well visits during the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Pediatricians are rarely implementing ROR tenants via telemedicine due to barriers.
  - Pediatricians reported specific barriers in implementing ROR via telemedicine:



## Discussion

- Pediatricians value ROR yet indicated specific resources are needed to facilitate implementation of ROR objectives via telemedicine.
- ROR telemedicine clinics can benefit by responding to the following recommendations:
  - Provide a list of online reading resources
  - Have training materials available for how to implement ROR via Telemedicine.
  - Offer quick-reference sheets for implementing ROR telemedicine
- To address these recommendations this project:
  - Identified a telehealth quick reference guide
  - Identified educational video for providers on how to implement ROR via telemedicine
  - Assisted authoring a telehealth manual
  - Created three child literacy resource sheets identifying free e-books, reading aloud options, and other literature activities**
    - This was incorporated into the telehealth manual that is slated for inclusion in NIH funded research
    - These are available in English, Spanish, and Multilingual.



- ROR via telemedicine is important and with resources such as those produced, ROR will continue to improve the quality of childhood literacy whether in-person or virtually.

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References and more info

