May 14, 2020.

Robert DeFinis, Ed.D.

Dear Robert,

**APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORTING EFCD ONLINE BOOKS RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Thank you for supporting the EFCD online book resource development.

 In the six (6) short years since her founding, the Enyi Foundation for Community Development (EFCD) which was established under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2016 as a Non-Governmental Organisation to improve and positively impact on the overall quality of Early Years and Primary Years Education, has played a major role in the positive transformation of the lives of children and youths from different rural communities. These are often naive, unsupervised, and many a time, non-schooling kids (most who are not in school due to lack of basic indexes for learning), with much free time to engage in societal cum state-level crimes. Interestingly, as a result of her universal outlook, EFCD also has programmes for kids in urban areas. It is worth mentioning, though, that the programmes of EFCD are designed mainly for children within the ages of three and fourteen years. One of the EFCD programmes, the "I – Read" programme, uses the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFSC), the Primary Years Curriculum (PYC) and Montessori Approach to *“improve and positively impact on the overall quality of early years and primary years’ education”* through encouraging the children to enjoy reading/learning from a tender age. We aim to inspire a quest for reading/learning throughout their life that is dutifully marked by a modicum of enthusiasm and empathy. The keyword of I-Read is EDUTAINMENT!

A developing initiative under the "I – Read" programme is the creation of an online book resource (free audiobooks and e-books). The aim is to provide children with free access to some special books arranged according to age categories on the EFCD website – [www.efcd.net](http://www.efcd.net). We will attach short descriptions under the link to each book to help kids and their parents to identify what book is best for each child at each moment. We hope in the long run to help the children to contribute to building up this resource by writing and uploading their own stories; we will also encourage them to make audio recordings of their stories and book(s) they like and upload to the EFCD website for other kids to download and read. We hope that this will improve the reading culture which is on the decline among children in Nigeria.

Literature by local experts in basic education in Nigeria has shown some shocking findings. For example, the studies by Nzeako, 1982, and Fabunmi, 2010 showed that children in Nigeria have poor reading culture, many a time, due to the inefficient teaching and learning methods in schools. A more recent study carried out by experts from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria, found that even up to junior secondary school level, lack of understanding which can be a result of badly designed teaching and learning scheme discourages many children in Nigeria from studying outside the class (Anyaegbu, Nwako & Aghauche, 2016). In an article published in Vanguard Newspaper on April 4, 2019, the following was noted:

“NIGERIA has been rated by the World Culture Score Index as one of the countries in the world with the lowest reading culture, while available statistics from National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education shows that 38 per cent of Nigerians are non-literate as four in ten primary school children cannot read for comprehension. Regrettably, this adverse development is an ominous challenge the country seems not to be paying needed attention to” (Read more at <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/04/addressing-decline-of-reading-culture-in-nigeria/>).

The point of the overall state of Nigerian children with regards to basic education as observed by UNICEF presents even bleaker scenarios. You may see for yourself at <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/education>. Does not this situation demand urgent attention?

Therefore, our efforts are directed towards building and maintaining a rich literacy among the citizens. We hope our resource will be accessible to about 1,000,000 children by the end of 2020. We are setting up special physical children’s libraries (including orphanages) in different corners of our great nation Nigeria. We are willing to send a separate document describing this project at request.

Back to you, dear Robert, we wish to say a million thanks to you again for the book you donated-“[How to Defeat the Icky, Filthy, Creepy, Slimy Corona Monster!](https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1015010)” for the building up of this resource. This book means a lot to us now because we have been making efforts for some time to find the best ways to explain this current pandemic to the kids we reach out to. As an extra token to show our gratitude to you, we are making a video of two kids reading your books, and we will upload it to our website.

We humbly request that you find a reason in the future to support and/or collaborate with EFCD in making reading available to all kids.

Thank you.

Most sincerely,



*Caroline Patrick-Onochie MCArb.*

*Executive Director*

*Enyi Foundation for Community Development (EFCD)*

Enclosure: Photos of I-Read Programme.