

FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

THIS ISSUE:

A Message to You!

Learning at Home:
Connecting Reading and Writing

Featured Book of the Month

Community Events



A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



PARENTS: Reading is the Gateway to Lifelong Learning

Reading and discussing one or more books with your children every day helps them learn about print, books and the enjoyment of reading. Even newborns benefit from having stories read to them. The Imagination Library encourages good reading habits for parents, caregivers, and their children.

Parents have the patience of saints! My mother read and re-read the same Berenstain Bears book to me night, after night, after night. You've probably heard your child ask, "Read it again, please!" While children often cling to their favorite stories for the comfort they find among the familiar pages, re-reading also helps them become successful readers. Repeated readings of a book allow children to learn new vocabulary, provide more detailed responses to reading comprehension questions, and most importantly, knowing a book well increases children's confidence and engagement in reading. At Farmville Public Library, we make it easier to re-read your child's favorite books. The Library offers auto-renewal of materials and there are no overdue fees for books. Farmville Public Library serves all of Pitt County and beyond. We hope to see you and your family in the Library's new building which is set to open mid-April.

-**Heather Harden**, Children's Librarian, Farmville Public Library



If you have a child who is not enrolled in Imagination Library or know a child who is not enrolled, search online for **Imagination Library NC** and click on the **Smart Start** link to ENROLL.

Learning at Home

Reading and rereading your **Imagination Library** books is a great way to help your child become a reader, but there are lots of other things you can do as well. Here are some fun and simple ideas you can try at home.

Learn the letters of the alphabet. Learning the ABC's is an important step in learning to read and write. To help your child learn the letters of the alphabet:



- Write the letters out on a piece of paper or use magnetic letters on the refrigerator.
- Sing the ABC Song while pointing to the letters.
- Name letters you see on cereal boxes, games or books - try having a Letter Hunt for special letters, like those in your child's name!



Play with the sounds in words. Understanding that words are made up of sounds is another important step in becoming a reader, and singing songs is a great way to help your child notice the sounds in words!

- Sing songs with lots of rhyming words, like Down by the Bay, then make up your own silly verses with more words that rhyme!
- Take the rhyming outside by teaching your child some jump rope rhymes.
- Play with names or other words by changing the beginning sounds: silly, willy, nilly, dilly. They don't have to be real words - just have fun with it!
- Talk like a robot and see if your child can guess what you're saying: "Can you turn off the tel-e-vi-sion?" Let your child try it, too!

Encourage writing. Writing is an important way to help children learn how **letters and sounds** work together.



- Have paper and pencils or markers available around the house and encourage your child to write notes, make labels for things, or help you with a shopping list.
- Don't expect correct spelling, but provide help if your child asks for it.

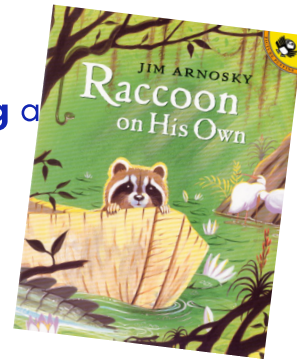
Connecting Reading and Writing

Many parents notice that schools seem to be involving young children in a lot more writing than they used to. This is even true in kindergarten and preschool. Children who are read to frequently, and who do more reading themselves, are likely to become better writers – so read and **reread** your books from Imagination Library! It works both ways, too – children who are involved in writing from early on tend to become readers. Scribbling and drawing are important starting points for learning to write. With your help, your child might even enjoy writing their own stories or books. For some great ideas to help you and your child get started with writing at home, check out the PBS Kids webpage: [Growing as a Writer](#).



Featured Book of the Month

A great way to interact with your children when you are reading or **rereading** a book is to think about the ABC's of Active Reading*. If you recently received *Raccoon on His Own*, by Jim Arnosky, here are some suggestions to get you started! *Read more about the ABCs of Active Reading at: <https://www.readcharlotte.org/active-reading/>



- A** **Ask Questions** about the story and pictures.
How do you think the raccoon feels about being in a boat all on his own? How does he feel when he sees the snake? How can you tell?
What are the other raccoons trying to do? (Point out mother raccoon and the siblings in the background of some of the pictures. Are they going to save him?)
How does the raccoon feel when he finally sees his family again? How do you know?
- B** **Build Vocabulary** with simple explanations.
Search: to look for something. The raccoon was **searching** for food.
Silently: very quiet – not making a sound. The boat **silently** carried him downstream.
Sturdy: something that's strong. The raccoon tried to reach a **sturdy** branch.
- C** **Connect to Kids' Worlds** and share your own stories.
The raccoon in the story feels afraid when the boat first starts floating down the stream. Share a story about a time when you were young and were afraid because you were by yourself. Then ask your child if they've ever been afraid, maybe at a time when you were not around and they needed you.

Have you or your child ever seen a raccoon? Tell about a time when you've seen a raccoon, or learn more about raccoons on the internet or by borrowing books from the library.

Talk about a river or stream that is nearby and plan a trip there if you can. Besides raccoons, what other kinds of animals might you see near or in the water? Look back into the book to get some ideas.

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

Saylor loves to read her books from Imagination Library! Checking the mail and seeing the excitement on her face when she receives a new book is so special. We have to sit down right away and read her new book! We use these books to help promote literacy and love the wide range of topics they cover. Saylor especially loves picking from all the books she has received for nap time and bed time story reading!

-Brittany Jones, mom to Saylor, a DPIL recipient



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Click the links below to find upcoming literacy opportunities in your community!

Sheppard Memorial, G.W. Carver, East, & Winterville Libraries:

http://www.sheppardlibrary.org/childrens_library

Martin County Libraries: <https://bhmlib.org/events/>

Farmville Public Library: <https://www.farmvillelibrary.org/>

Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/mppfc/events/?ref=page_internal

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