

FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

THIS ISSUE:

A Message to You!

Summer Reading Activities

Preparing for Kindergarten

Community Events

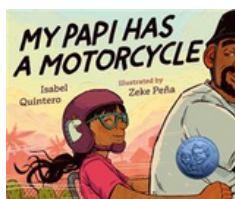
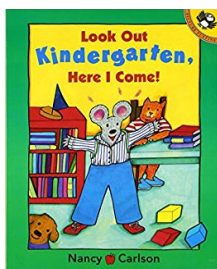


A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I've learned so much about the importance of reading with children in their youngest years from my experiences as a mother and a grandmother. Reading with my daughter every day helped her build confidence as a reader, which helped her excel in school. In addition to reading together when she was growing up, she saw me reading during my free time, which modeled for her that reading was important in my life. Now she continues to read as an adult, both for pleasure and to learn.

I'm continuing the reading tradition with my granddaughters and read with them at every opportunity. We all learn new vocabulary as we talk about words and discuss their meanings together. When I see them pick up books on their own, I know that the more they read, the further they'll go and I'm so pleased that I can be a part of that!

-Gloristine Brown, Mayor of the Town of Bethel



In this newsletter, you'll find many helpful ideas for sharing books with your children over the summer and as they begin school. This is an exciting time for them and for you, and reading every day is one of the best ways to ensure that your child gets off to a great start!



Make sharing books a part of your family's fun this summer:



Summer should not mean taking a break from learning or reading! Teachers and literacy experts agree that children of all ages need to be read to or read by themselves during the summer.

Try these tips to make reading a fun summer activity for your family:



Set aside time each day to read together. Your summer schedule may be different than your schedule during the school year. Pick a consistent time each day you can spend reading as a family.

Visit the local public library or Little Library near you.

Look into your public library's summer reading events or programs (see page 4). Visit the library each week to let your child choose new books. Choose some books for yourself, too!

[Click Here](#) for Pitt County's Little Libraries Map. If you're traveling, [use this link](#) to find a Little Library wherever you are.



Connect book choices to summer activities. Read a book related to the beach if you're planning to go. After reading books about animals, go to the park or a farm and look for animals with your child.



Listen to audio books or read road signs together if you are traveling this summer.

Be a reader yourself! Children love to copy their parents. Show them reading is important by keeping reading material around the house or by taking your own book or magazine to the beach, pool, or park.

Summer reading and book discussions can help your children maintain or even improve their reading skills and comprehension.

PARENTS: Reading is the Gateway to Lifelong Learning

Although your new kindergartner will be learning to read very simple books at school, it is still important to read to them every day. This allows them to enjoy and learn from books they cannot yet read on their own. Plus, your child has likely grown to cherish the quality time you spend reading together!



Off to Kindergarten!



As your child begins to learn to read, keep in mind the purpose of reading: to understand what the words tell us. So, be sure to help children **enjoy** and **understand** the books they are reading.

If you have younger children at home, make reading a family time and include your kindergartener in **enjoying** their younger siblings' books. Soon your kindergartener will read along, point to the words, and learn to read some of the words on their own!

Let your child have some choice in the books that you read together - even if they want to read the same books over and over again. Choice is very motivating and rereading books increases **understanding**.

Help your child learn about the world. The more they learn about things that aren't part of their everyday experiences, the easier it will be for them to **enjoy** and **understand** the books that they read.



Also, try educational TV and [websites](#), trips to interesting places, and [podcasts for kids](#) to learn more about the world. Children will benefit more from activities when you do them and talk about them together!

Click on the **pink** words for links to helpful resources or on the image of the book cover for more tips on helping your child become a reader.

FEATURED BOOK OF THE MONTH

When your child turns five, *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* is the last book they will receive from Imagination Library. **Follow the ABCs of reading* to talk about this book with your child:**

A **Ask Questions** about the story and the pictures.

How did Henry feel about kindergarten in the beginning of the story? When he first got to school? At the end of the story?

Why did Henry put a picture of his mom and dad in his backpack?

What are some fun things that Henry was going to get to do in kindergarten?



B **Build Vocabulary** with simple explanations.

Supplies: those are all the things Henry will need for school

Lonely: when you feel all alone, like when you miss your family

Practice: that's when you keep doing something until you're good at it

C **Connect to Kids' Worlds** and share your own stories.

- Henry, the main character, walks to school with mom. Talk with your child about how they will get to school, and how they will get home.

- Share your story about beginning kindergarten. How did you feel? Were you as excited as Henry was? What was the best part about going to kindergarten?

***More about the ABCs at: <https://readcharlotte.org/active-reading/>**

PARENT TESTIMONIAL



"We have been enjoying Imagination Library for over 2 years. My son is always excited to check the mailbox and receive his new book monthly! I love that the books grow with him as he goes through different levels of development. As an educator, I appreciate the opportunity to share my favorite books and authors with my son as he adds to his personal collection as well as discovering new authors and stories. What an opportunity to create great memories!"

Latonjia Columbus, parent of Caleb, an Imagination Library recipient

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.



Try out the Home Reading Helper this summer. This free online tool has several resources, like the ABCs of Reading, to help you read and write with your child at home! Find it at www.homereadinghelper.org

FREE RESOURCES TO HELP PARENTS, & CAREGIVERS WITH AT-HOME READING:

<https://readenc.org/home-resources/>



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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United Way of Pitt County
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READ ENC Community Literacy Coalition

East Carolina University
Smith Family Foundation
Vidant Health



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