

FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

THIS ISSUE:

Our Message to You!

Starting Early &
Family Reading

Imagination Library

Community Events



A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



United Way of Pitt County Imagination Library mails one book per month to every child enrolled from birth until the child's 5th birthday - that's a home library of 60 books.

Imagine what Pitt County will look like when every kindergartner arrives to school knowing and loving their home library of at least 60 books.

Children are welcomed to Imagination Library with *The Little Engine That Could*. Each month a new, carefully selected book will be mailed in your child's name directly to your home. Best of all, this is a complimentary gift of the community to all its children.

-Jim Cieslar, Executive Director, United Way of Pitt County

PARENTS: Reading is the Gateway to Lifelong Learning

An abundance of books that are readily available to children in the home is one of the clearest predictors of school success. **Reading** and **discussing** one or more **books** with children **every day** is a great way to help them learn about print, books and the enjoyment of reading. [Source: http://www.uniteforliteracy.com/](http://www.uniteforliteracy.com/)

Register TODAY at www.imaginationlibrary.com and help your child open the gateway to lifelong learning.



Start Early: Even newborns benefit from hearing stories!



Almost 80% of a child's brain develops before the age of 5.

Read out loud, every day, any book you'd like!

Research shows: the number of words babies are exposed to directly impacts their language and literacy.



The language must be in person and directed at the child – audiobooks, videos, and TV do not have the same impact!

Make eye contact with your child. Babies may not appear to be listening, but they are taking in the experience.



4

months: babies explore books by chewing and handling them. Let your baby explore cardboard, vinyl, or cloth books.

6

months: babies become more interested in the story. Talk about the story and pictures with your child!

8

months: invite your baby to turn the pages as you read.

If your child makes a noise, respond! It may not make sense to you but to babies, coos and "noises" are their way of communicating.

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." – Margaret Fuller

READING TIPS

New Book?

- ★ The first time you read a new book, sit with your child and read it together from beginning to end.
 - ★ **Focus on enjoying the book.**
- ★ Have fun and enjoy sharing a story with your child.

Re-Reading?

- Use some of the activity ideas below.
- Don't try to include every activity each time you read...still enjoy the story!

Limited on time?

- ▶ Read a poem - they're usually short!
- ▶ Read labels while at the grocery store or street signs while in the car.

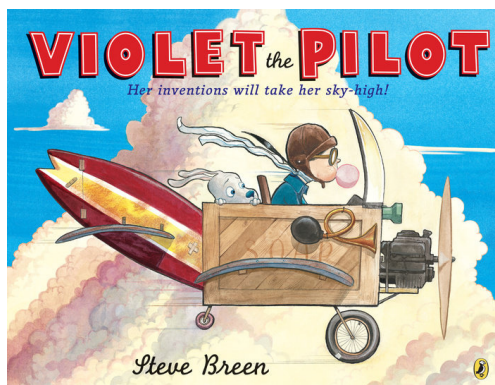
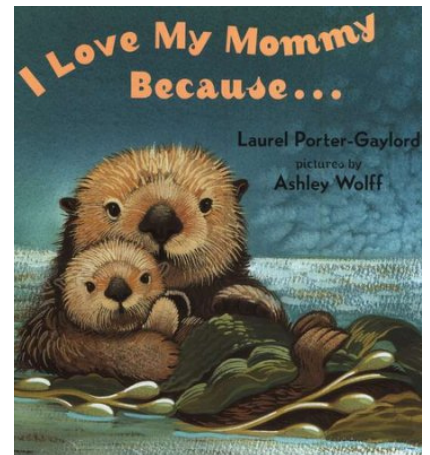
Check out the suggestions in the back of your Imagination Library book

FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH:

Even babies benefit from hearing stories!

Read out loud every day. The sound of your voice is what matters, not the content.

Let your baby look at and touch the pages.



Before you read: Talk about what makes the airplane on the cover unique.

While Reading: When Violet rescues the Boy Scouts, talk about a time your child has helped others.

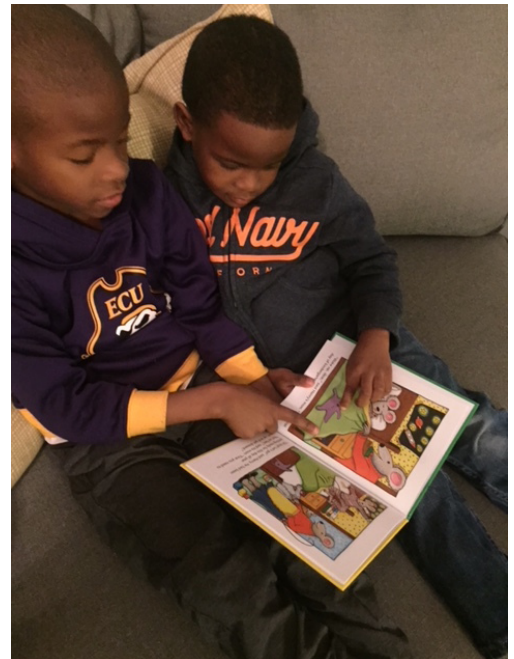
Ask Questions: Where did Violet get materials for her inventions? When the children bullied Violet, how did she feel?

On the Go: Watch planes in the sky or a video of an air show together!

PARENT TESTIMONY

"The **excitement** on Cole's face each time he received a book in the mail was beyond words! I'm not sure what he enjoyed the most, receiving something in the mail or me reading the book. Either way, **he was happy**. We have used these books to **explore** many topics and expand vocabulary to help build him up in the area of literacy using life experiences and making connections with the texts."

-Julia Lynch, parent of Cole, an Imagination Library recipient



Want to be featured here? Email: atkinsont@ecu.edu!



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: <http://farmvillelibrary.org>

Barnes & Noble, Greenville:

<https://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2775?view=list>

Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children:

<http://www.mppfc.org/about-us/events/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/mppfc/events/>

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