

# FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

## THIS ISSUE:

Our Message to You!

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Reading over the  
Summer

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Imagination Library

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Community Events



## A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



As parents, we know that reading to our children is important for growing their brains and future success in school. Reading aloud to your child builds their vocabulary, improves important listening skills, and creates a love for books.

Use the monthly Dolly Parton Imagination Library book to read with your child every day, even if for 5 or 10 minutes. The more you read and talk about books with your child, the more they will enjoy them and learn from them. Your child will become more interested in being read to and will begin to ask for more!

-Jessica Burnham, Executive Director, Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children

## 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**, even in the summer, is a great way to help them learn about print, books and the enjoyment of reading. Source: <http://www.uniteforliteracy.com/>

Register TODAY at **[www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com)** and help your child open the gateway to lifelong learning.

\*\*If your family is moving this summer, update your address at United Way so your child still receives books! Contact information for United Way can be found on Imagination Library book mailing labels or at the end of this newsletter.





# 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.

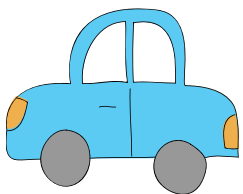
Try these tips to make reading a fun summer activity for your family:



**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.

**Use your local library.** 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 for yourself too!

**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 will be 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.

**“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.”**

— Dr. Seuss, “I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!”

## 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?

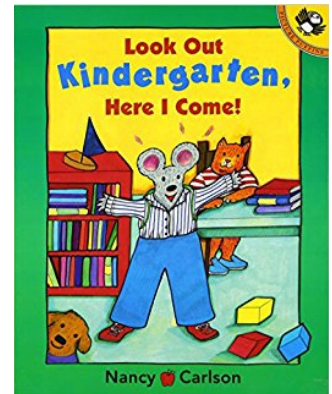
- Ask your child questions about the story or what they think will happen next.
- Check out the suggestions in the back of your Imagination Library books.
- Don't try to include every suggestion each time you read...enjoyment is key!

### Limited on time?

- ▶ Read your child the recipe you are using to make dinner!
- ▶ Read posters hanging in offices while waiting for an appointment, or signs while waiting in line at the store.

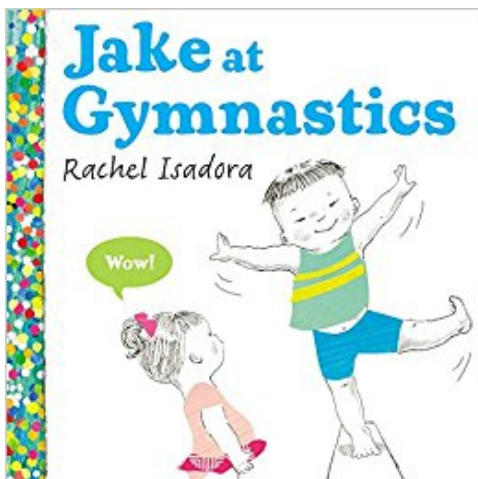
## FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH:

When your child turns five, "Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!" is the last book they will receive from Imagination Library.



Reading to your child should not stop when your child no longer receives books or starts kindergarten. Reread favorite books or visit your public library and let your child choose new ones.

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 with them!



"Jake at Gymnastics" is an action-packed book that will encourage your child to get up and move!

Try reading this book outside on a nice summer day and imitating Jake's gymnastics moves together.

Read the one word exclamations from the characters in an excited voice. Your child will be even more interested in the story.

# PARENT TESTIMONIAL



"Watching our daughter **grow** as she reads her books from Imagination Library has been the best thing for us as parents. As early as **6-8 months** Susie has been able to pick up books, turn the pages, and pretend to **read**. She loves her books and prefers them over any toy. Imagination Library has and will play a huge factor in our child's **literacy growth**. Receiving monthly books has been a **joy** for our daughter."

-Ricardo and Ramsey Morales, parents of Susie, an Imagination Library recipient

**Want to be featured here? Email: [atkinsont@ecu.edu](mailto: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](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/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/mppfc/events/?ref=page_internal)

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Read ENC Community Literacy Coalition

The State of North Carolina

East Carolina University

Smith Family Foundation

Vidant Health



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