

# FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

## THIS ISSUE:

Our Message to You!

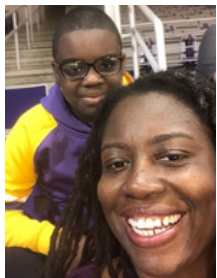
Reading With Your  
Baby

Imagination Library

Community Events



## A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



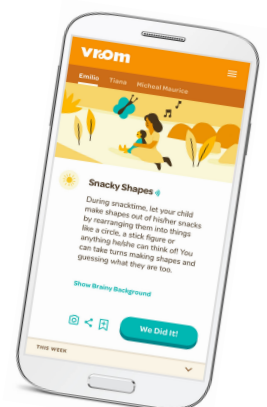
"As a first-time mom 13 years ago, I remember reading to my infant son...not very successfully. He spent very little time listening - he wanted to get up, move around. I wondered if we would ever be able to get through a full storybook.

As my active infant grew into a toddler, his attention span grew! He would sit longer for books - looking at pictures and asking questions. Whether you have a very active baby like I did, one who puts books in mouth more than listens, one who intently sits and listens, or a combination of these, including books in your routines gets easier and sets the foundation for language and school success. Patience and persistence pay off!

- Sheresa Blanchard, ECU Professor, Human Development and Family Science

## APP ALERT:

**Vroom** is a free app that provides daily brain boosting tips for talking with your baby ages 0-5. Make the most of everyday moments during baths, meals, and any time with over 1,000 free ideas for connecting with babies and building their brains. Available in English and Spanish.



**Vroom** is free at <https://www.vroom.org/> or in your phone's App Store!

# Reading with Babies!

Babies may be too young to read, but reading to them helps their brains develop. Before babies can even speak, they are listening and learning. Talking, reading, and singing with your baby encourages speech, listening, and reading development. Plus, spending time with your baby is important to helping them grow up healthy and happy!

## Talk:

Talk back and forth with your baby.

Responding to coos, smiles, and gurgles helps them learn words and language.

## Read:

Gather your baby into your lap and read every day. Smile and "talk back" when they make baby sounds that imitate your real reading.

## Sing:

Sing the words to your baby, especially with books that rhyme. Your child will become your greatest singing fan 🎵

"Reading with young children is a joyful way to build strong and healthy parent-child relationships, to foster early language skills and to promote children's development."

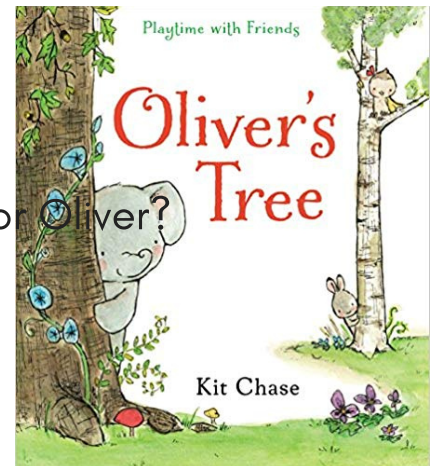
—James M. Perrin, MD, FAAP, American Association of Pediatrics President



You can still use your child's old books as they grow! Here are some ideas for using a "baby" book to engage with your preschooler while reading:

### Ask questions while you read:

- **Why** does Oliver not like trees?
- **What** happens to the trees Charlie and Lulu find for Oliver?
- **What** do Charlie and Lulu do to surprise Oliver?



### Help them learn new vocabulary:

*Spotted:* to see or find someone

*Hopeless:* a lost cause; not going to work

*Perfect:* just right; excellent

### Connect to your child:

- What are some things your child enjoys doing outside? Do they play hide-and-seek or tag with their friends? Tell them some of the activities you enjoyed outside when you were little.
- What kind of animals are Oliver, Lulu, and Charlie? Have your child tell you about them. Explain that Oliver is much bigger than a bird or a bunny because he is an elephant.



If you have a child who will turn 4 by August 31st, consider enrolling them in the **Pitt County Pre-Kindergarten Program!** Applications will be available in March at Sadie Saulter Educational Center, Department of Social Service, Health Department, Community Center in Moyewood, Sheppard Memorial Library, and from any Elementary School in Pitt County.

*NC Pre-Kindergarten Program*



*"North Carolina's pre-K program is **one of only five in the nation** to meet the benchmarks for a **quality**, cost-effective program. According to an annual assessment, NC Pre-K students made **significant gains** from pre-K through kindergarten in language and literacy skills, math skills, general knowledge, and behavior."*

- Public Schools First NC

# PARENT TESTIMONIAL



"Our son, Rowan, began receiving the Imagination Library books recently and we couldn't be more thrilled! At five months old he loves hearing Mommy and Daddy read to him and he eagerly looks at the pictures. We hope reading these books daily will give him the same love for reading that we have."

-Shannon Allen, mother of Rowan, who is a DPIL recipient

**Want to be featured here? Email: [atkinsont@ecu.edu](mailto:atkinsont@ecu.edu)!**

**If you have a child that is not enrolled in Imagination Library or know a child who is not enrolled, ENROLL them at [imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com) today!**



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>

**Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children:**

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/mppfc/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/mppfc/events/?ref=page_internal)

**Pitt County Bookmobile:**

<http://sheppardlibrary.org/c.php?g=659581&p=4631061>

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*With special thanks to:*

United Way of Pitt County  
Martin Pitt Partnership for Children  
READ ENC Community Literacy Coalition  
The State of North Carolina  
East Carolina University  
Smith Family Foundation  
Vidant Health



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