

FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

THIS ISSUE:

Our Message to You!

Reading over the Summer

Off to Kindergarten!

Community Events



A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

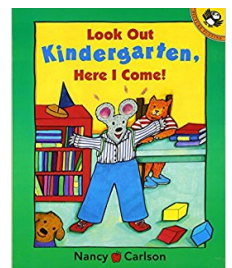


When your child turns five, "Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!" is the last book they will receive from Imagination Library.

Reading to your child should not stop when your child no longer receives books or even when they start reading on their own.

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!

In this newsletter, you'll find lots of great 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!



Happy Reading! *Kimberly Anderson and Elizabeth Swaggerty, ECU College of Education*

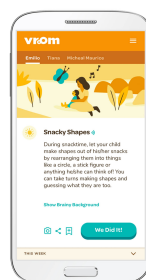


Try out the **Home Reading Helper** this summer.

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



Give **Vroom** a try, too! This free app provides daily brain boosting tips for talking with your child. There are over 1,000 ideas for connecting with your child and building their brain!

Find it in your App store or at www.vroom.org



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.

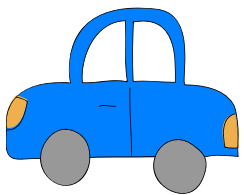
Try these tips to make reading a fun summer activity for your family:



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.

“My name is Angelina and I spent my whole summer with my little sister ... reading books and telling stories and even though we were right on our block it was like we got to go **EVERYWHERE.**”

— Jaqueline Woodson “The Day You Begin”

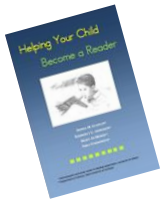


Off to Kindergarten!



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 blue words for links to great resources or on the image of the book cover for more tips on helping your child become a reader.

FEATURED BOOK OF THE MONTH

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
- Share your story about beginning kindergarten. How did you feel? Were you as excited as

PARENT TESTIMONIAL



"I look forward to getting books in the mail each month from Imagination Library to read to London. We started getting these books when she was just a few months old. She loves looking at the pictures, turning the pages, and hearing me read to her. Knowing how important it is to read to her every day, I am so thankful that we are able to build a personal library for her at home."

-Kiara Jones, mother of one-year old London, who registered for Imagination Library the day after her baby's birth at Vidant Medical Center.

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

If you have a child who is not enrolled in Imagination Library or know a child who is not enrolled, **ENROLL** them at <https://www.smartstart.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library> now!



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>

Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children:

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



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