

FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

THIS ISSUE:

A Message to You!

Facts About the Flaps!

Featured Books of the Month

Community Events



A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



When we share books with children at the library, we practice reading with expression, talking about the characters, and even acting out the characters. When we read like this, children say, "Read some more." Reading to children motivates them to read themselves or even look at the pictures on their own. Make reading the Imagination Library books you receive in the mail each month an important part of each and every day.

-Janie Fields, Carver Library

PARENTS: Reading is the Gateway to Lifelong Learning

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. The Imagination Library encourages good reading habits for parents, caregivers, and their children. You can find some great suggestions for developing good reading habits for children at different ages by visiting the Imagination Library website: <https://imaginationlibrary.com/news-resources/parent-resources/>

Suggestions for choosing books for young children:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxenMhDT9rmEZnRpZG5SbjZ4WEE/view>

The Facts About the Flaps!

When your child is between ages 2-3, their Imagination Library books will begin to have a book flap attached inside the front cover.

These book flaps are designed to provide parents with suggestions of activities to try or questions to ask while reading. Below are some suggestions for the book "Eat Pete!"

Starting Up:

Point out that the two words in the title rhyme. What other words can your child think of that rhyme with *Eat* and *Pete*?



Reading the Story:

Say to your child, "Monsters can be scary, but does Pete seem scared? No! He wants to play!"

After Pete is eaten, he seems gone, but is he? Talk about the surprises as you read.

After the Story:

Ask your child questions about the story.

After the monster ate Pete, why wasn't he happy playing anymore? When Pete came back, could they still be friends?

Learning on the Go:

Pretend to be a pirate or play with cars or blocks like Pete and the monster did. After you play for a bit, pretend to gobble each other up!



Many parents don't even know these flaps exist! Dolly Parton added them to her books to give every parent or caregiver some ideas for reading aloud and enjoying books with their children.

Don't try to use all of the ideas the first time you read the story. Just curl up with your child and enjoy your special time together! When you reread the story, you can try out one or two of the suggestions each time. Talking about the books you are reading will help your child become a better reader when it is time to begin reading on their own.

FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Another way to interact with your children while you are reading is to think about the ABC's of active reading. If you recently received *Otis and the Kittens*, here are some suggestions to get you started!

Ask Questions about the story and pictures.



Why did Otis go into the barn?

How do you think Otis felt when the floor collapsed? **Why?**

What would you do if your friend needed help? **Why?**

Do you think this is a real story or a make-believe story?

How do you know?



B Build Vocabulary with simple explanations

Anxious: If someone is anxious, that means they are worried.

Brittle: That means it is easy to break.

Sweltering: if something is sweltering, it is really hot.

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

- When Otis plays tug of war ask if your child has ever played tug of war. Ask and talk about their favorite game.
- Otis helps to save the kittens. Has your child ever helped a friend? Talk about why they did and how it made them feel to be helpful.
- Tell your child about a time you helped a friend or family member. Talk to them about why helping is important.



The Imagination Library books that you receive for your baby are specifically designed to be shared and played with by babies! Your baby can help you hold the book and can even help you turn the pages.

When reading a book like *Where is Your Nose?*, **talk back and forth with your baby**. Responding to coos, smiles, and gurgles helps them learn words and language.

-Connect the words in the book to your baby's body and act them out.

Where is your nose? There it is! Where are your eyes? Peek a boo!

-Use an excited voice! Don't be afraid to add words that aren't in the book.

Look a rabbit! Look a puppy! (Point to the animals as you name them.)

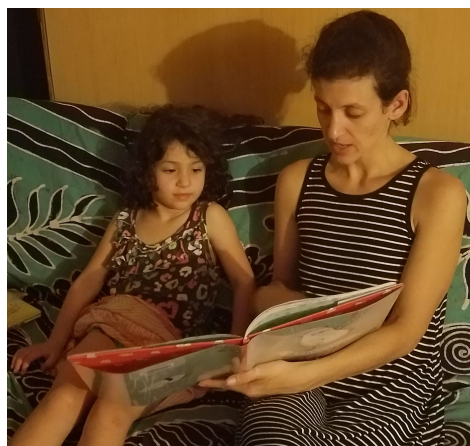
-Read it Again! Read it Again!

Babies love repetition and learn through familiar routines.

Check out activities for other books on the Imagination Library website.

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/news-resources/coloring-activity-sheets/>

PARENT TESTIMONIAL



"**Imagination Library** has been a really fun way to get new and interesting reading material for free through the mail! I love that it is open to all children under 5- a perfect age for getting in the habit of reading. It's something we look forward to every month, and it's always a surprise what book will come. It's also a great opportunity to try out some different kinds of books that our daughter might not automatically gravitate toward.

We love reading the Imagination Library books over and over and already have a nice little collection. Our daughter loves hearing stories, and reading is a special time that we share together when she always has my full attention."

-**Victoria Anderson**, mother of Zozan, a DPIL 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.



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>

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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