

# FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

## THIS ISSUE:

Our Message to You!

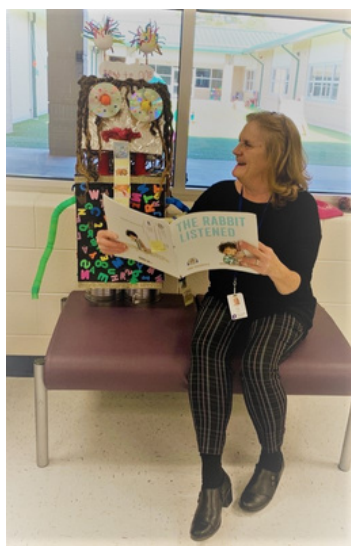
Emphasizing Letters & Words While Reading

Imagination Library

Community Events



## A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



"Read, read, and read some more! Reading to children every day helps in teaching them ... how to talk ... how to listen ... how to read ... and how to write. Children need adult assistance to involve them in appropriate reading activities, which helps them interpret what they are seeing, hearing, and learning. Receiving books from the Imagination Library every month gives parents the opportunity to spend precious time with their child while teaching them skills to help them throughout their lifetime".

- Tina Page, NC Pre-K Contract Manager/Lead Teacher

## 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, rereading** 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/>

Register TODAY at [smartstart.org/DPIIL](http://smartstart.org/DPIIL) and help your child open the gateway to lifelong learning.



# Print Referencing:

## Helping Your Child Learn About Books, Letters & Words

Adapted from: Justice, L. M., & Sofka, A. E. (2013). *Engaging children with print: Building early literacy skills through quality read-alouds*. Guilford Publications.

You have probably noticed that your children love reading their Imagination Library books over and over. **Rereading Books** is a great way to help children understand stories better, learn new information and vocabulary, and participate in reading with you. When you reread books, take the time to talk about how books work, encourage your child to read along with parts that repeat and are easy to remember, and point to these words as you read. Then encourage your child to point to some letters and words. This is called **Print Referencing**. It can help your child learn more about books, letters and words, and it can be done anywhere at anytime - **all you need is a book!**

The ideas below will help you make the most of rereading opportunities with your child. Don't feel like you need to use them all for every book! Reading time should not be a test, but can be a great time to talk about books and how they work. The most important thing is that you and your child enjoy the book and your reading time together!

### Learning about Books



Before rereading a book, point to the title as you say the words and say, "The title tells what the book is going to be about." Talk about the front of the book, the back of the book, the author and the illustrator. While you are reading, point to the words as you say them, showing how you read across the page from left to right and from the top of the page to the bottom of the page. Sometimes, ask your child to help by showing you where you should read.

### Learning about Letters



Once in a while as you are reading, point to and name letters that are easy to notice, like letters at the beginning of words or letters in bold print. Help your child notice letters in their name, for example, "This is the letter M, just like the first letter in your name." Sometimes, ask your child to point to and name letters you think they might know, like letters in their name.

### Learning about Words

I love  
to  
read!

While reading, look for words that stand out and help your child identify them. For example, you might point to the word on a picture of a stop sign and ask, "What word is this?" "Yes! This is the word stop. S-T-O-P. Stop." If there are only a few words on a page, you can help your child count the words, pointing carefully under each one. If your child has memorized some of the words in the book, show them how they can point to the words as they say them. This will help your child understand that the words written on the page match the words they are saying. This is very important for beginning readers.

By remembering to try some of these **Print Referencing** ideas while **Rereading**, you can help your child participate more in your reading time together and get them off to a strong start to becoming a reader themselves.

**On the next page are some ways you can try print referencing using monthly Imagination Library books.**

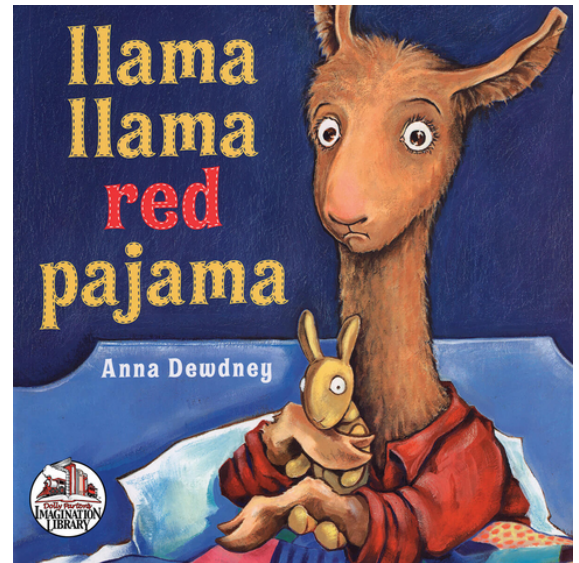
# Print Referencing Ideas

## Learning about Books

- When there are words on the left and right pages ask the child, "Where do I start reading? Which side?"
- If there are words at the top and the bottom of a page ask, "Do I start reading up here or down here?"

## Learning about Letters

- Point to and name the capital L in Llama on the first page of the story.
- Help your child find and name the capital L in Llama on other pages.



## Learning about Words

- Ask your child to point to the word red on the cover.
- Once your child has memorized the rhyming words in the story, stop reading when you get to one of the words in colored print and let your child "read" the word from memory. Be sure you are pointing to the word when you do this, or have your child do the pointing.

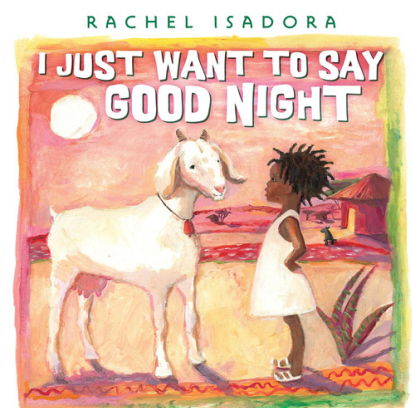


## Learning about Books

- Talk about the title page, pointing out that it has the name of the author and the title of the story, but the picture is different.

## Learning about Letters

- Have your child point to letters they know in the title, like the first letter in their name.
- Point to and name specific letters in the title that you think your child is ready to learn. The letter A might be a good choice, or the letter O.



## Learning about Words

- Explain how the pictures can help you figure out the words.
- Encourage your child to read the repeating sentence, "I just want to say goodnight to the ...", using the picture to fill in the last word. Help them point to the words as they read them.
- Point to the word "Woof!" on the page with the dog and have your child read the word, trying to sound just like a dog.

# PARENT TESTIMONIAL

“At first my children had problems with speaking out and talking, but since joining Imagination Library I have noticed my daughters are more energetic about reading. Just to see their faces light up knowing I am doing a good job is enough. It is exciting that they are so eager to read because growing up I loved to read, and it is like I am passing that love down.” -  
Deidra Williams, parent, a DPIL recipient



**Want to be featured here? Email: [atkinsont@ecu.edu](mailto: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 today at [smartstart.org/DPIL](http://smartstart.org/DPIL)!**



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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<https://blog.ecu.edu/sites/ilkis/>

*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



**LIVE UNITED**

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**MARTIN-PITT**  
Partnership for Children

a partner in the  
mart start network

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Martin County Office  
252-758-8885

Website: <http://www.mppfc.org/>