

FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

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A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

When we share reading with our children from their earliest years, it benefits them throughout their lifetimes. Just as exercise helps young bodies grow strong, **reading together** helps young brains to grow strong as well, so that our kids thrive in school and become **lifelong learners**, ready to achieve their full potential. Imagination Library gives children wonderful books of their very own to jump start that process, and your public library has many, many more books that you can check out to feed the need to read as it develops. So please take the opportunity to **read together with your children** often. It's time well spent!

-Greg Needham, Director of Sheppard Memorial Library



PARENTS: Lifelong Learning Lessons from the Start

Reading and **discussing** one or more books with children **every day** helps them experience the enjoyment of learning about most anything of interest. But shared family reading isn't limited to books only. Many free online resources provide unlimited high-quality opportunities to learn together. Check out [READ ENC's](https://readenc.org/) Free Resources to Help Educators, Parents, and Caregivers with at-home reading & learning. Follow your child's lead and enjoy exploring the endless possibilities. <https://readenc.org/>

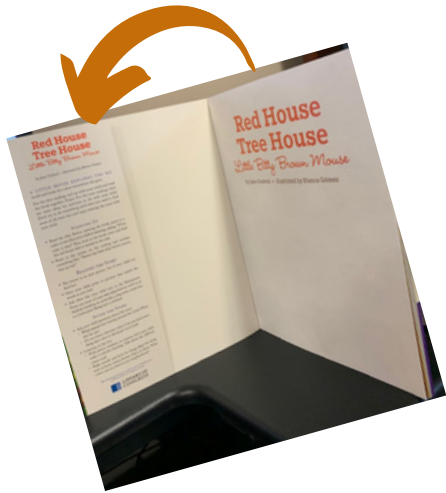
Enroll online at this NC Smart Start link.



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.

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.



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 *Red House Tree House, Little Bitty Brown Mouse*.

Starting Up:

Read the title. Before opening the book, point to a color or two that your child is wearing asking, "What color is this?" Then look at the book cover and find the red house that is named in the title.

Reading the Story:

The mouse is in each picture. See if your child can find it! See what else your child can find in the illustrations. Point out your own observations, and invite your child to join in. "I see an elephant holding an umbrella. What do you see?"

After the Story:

Ask your child questions about the story like:

"What animal was moving around the town?" "What did she see?"

"Do you have a favorite color?" "Can you find something that color in the book?"

Learning on the Go:

Walk outside and look for things from the book, such as buses, trains, houses, bikes, or shoes. What colors can you find in your neighborhood?

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 *My Papi Has A Motorcycle*, by Isabel Quintero, here are some suggestions to get you started!
*Read more about the ABCs of Active Reading at: <https://www.readcharlotte.org/active-reading/>

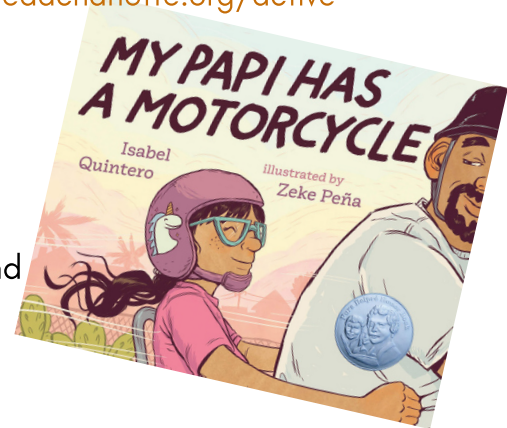


Ask Questions about the story and pictures.

How does the girl feel when her father takes her on a motorcycle ride? How can you tell?

What kind of noises can they hear? (Point out the words like VROOM, DING, DING, and HONK, and have fun with the sound effects as you read.)

Why does the girl wear a helmet?



Build Vocabulary with simple explanations.

Dedication: when you work really hard at something and you keep trying.

Immigrants: people who moved here from far away.

Spectacular: amazing or very special.

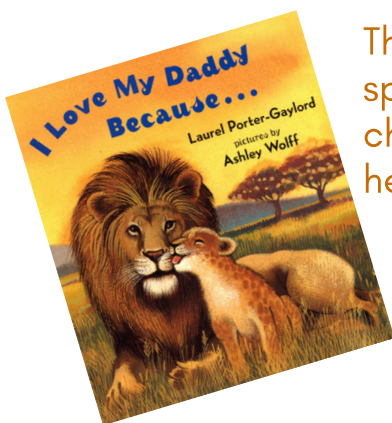


Connect to Kids' Worlds and share your own stories.

The girl in the story loves to go on motorcycle rides with her father. Share something that you liked to do with a special person in your life when you were little. Then ask your child who they like to do things with, and what they like to do with that person.

Do you or your child know anyone who speaks a different language? Try learning some Spanish words from the story together, and talk about how you might use them.

Talk about your favorite place to go in your town, and ask your child about their favorite places. Plan a trip around your town if you can.



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

When reading a book like *I Love My Daddy Because...*, **talk back and forth with your toddler**. This book has the words in English and in Spanish. As you turn each page, name the animal on the page while you point to it, and encourage your toddler to name it, too.

Act out some of the words in the book.

Hold your child tight to act out "safe and warm", or stretch your arm up to show "reach".

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

Look, a lion! Shhhhh. It looks like the lion is sleeping.

Read it Again! Read it Again!

Toddlers love repetition and learn through familiar routines. As you reread the book, try stopping and letting your child fill in some of the words.

Check out the suggestions in the front of your Imagination Library books, too!

PARENT TESTIMONIAL



Reading is so important to our family. No matter how busy a day it is, we always make time for reading every single day. Books have become a comfortable and safe space to learn and grow. We use reading as a time to develop critical thinking skills asking questions about what we read. How many ducks are there? Is the dog being good? Where would you go if you had your own train? Maddox loves to point out words he knows when we are out in the world. "S-T-O-P spells stop!" We love to share bonding time together, go on adventures through the pages, and build a solid foundation for future learning. The more you read, the more you know. The more you know, the further you'll go!

-Delaney and Damon Swift, parents of Maddox, a DPIL recipient

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

If you have a child who is not enrolled in Imagination Library, enroll online at this NC Smart Start link.



Click the links below to find upcoming literacy opportunities in our 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

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Vidant Health



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