

FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

THIS ISSUE:

A Message to You!

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Community Events



A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

A few years ago we had the privilege of being part of the literacy coalition that brought Imagination Library to Pitt County. Did you know that Pitt County was one of the first DPIL participants in the state of NC? It was funded locally through contributions and now the NC General Assembly funds it. We want to thank you, Imagination Library families! By signing up, you understand that you are your child's first and most important teacher. By reading to your child daily, you are strengthening the parent/child bond and ensuring that your child is learning new words, thinking new thoughts, and setting the foundation for independent reading. Maybe you think this is a small thing, but your child will go to Kindergarten ready to learn, because of the reading you have done at home. Your child's teacher will recognize your good work on the very first day of school! So, when you don't think you can take one more request for the book you have already read two dozen times, do not give up. Take a deep breath, and read it again. There is something amazing going on in your child's brain. We've seen it with our children and grandchildren, and it makes all the difference. Happy reading!

-Sarah and Ron Mitchelson, Literacy Advocate/Retired PCS Teacher and Literacy Advocate/ECU Interim Chancellor



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.

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 readers themselves.

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

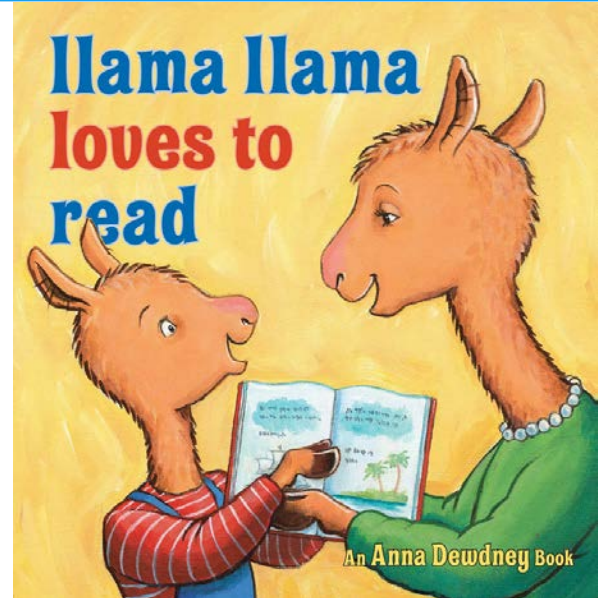
Print Referencing Ideas

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 bottom and top of the page ask, "Where do I start? Up here or down here?"

Learning about Letters

- After reading, take time to recite the letters of the alphabet, carefully pointing to the letters on the ABC chart on p. 3.
- Take a "letter hunt" through the book, encouraging your child to point to and name the first letter in their name (or other letters they are learning) each time they see it.



Learning about Words

- Once your child has memorized the rhyming words in the story, pause when you get to one of the words in colored print and let your child "read" the word with you. Be sure you are pointing to the word when you do this, or have your child do the pointing.
- Point to the letters and spell the words love, go, and stop. (This word is love. L-O-V-E, love!)
- Help your child learn the letters in their name, just like Llama does!

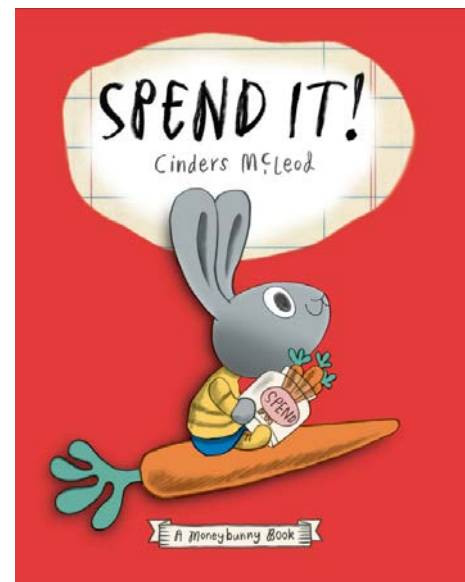


Learning about Books

- Move your finger under the words as you are reading, to show the direction for reading. Let your child help you, after you have read the book a couple of times.
- Point out how some of the words are much larger than the others, and practice using a louder voice when reading these words. Talk about how the exclamation point also helps you to know to use a loud, excited voice.

Learning about Letters

- Point to and name the capital S in "Sonny" on the first page of the story.
- Go on a letter hunt after reading and help your child find and name the capital S or other letters they might know.



Learning about Words

- After reading the book a few times, pause when you get to the words written in larger letters and let your child 'read' the words with you. Be sure you are pointing to the words when you do this.
- Point out the word TOYS on top of the toy store. "This word says toys, T-O-Y-S, toys".

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

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

This is our second round of Imagination Library as my daughter enjoyed it for her first 5 years! As an educator, I really value an authentic text with great plots that illustrate all walks of life. Each book is so different and all are engaging for all levels of my kids' development. They look forward to their "special" delivery each month and I can count on us reading them within five minutes of getting them out of the mailbox!

Blake LOVES trains and reads this one everywhere right now!

-Erin Kessel, mom of Blake, a DPIL recipient



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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: <https://www.farmvillelibrary.org>

Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/mppfc/events/?ref=page_internal

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READ ENC Community Literacy Coalition	

United Way



LIVE UNITED

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