

FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

THIS ISSUE:

Our Message to You!

Facts about the Flaps

Imagination Library
Featured Books

Community Events



A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



It's so very important for children to develop early understandings of all that can be learned and gained from reading for pleasure, especially during free time. In our work at the Bethel Youth Center, we encourage students with whom we work, day after day, to make the most of every moment. Having a book on hand that they want to read, one of interest to them, is crucial. Even fifteen minutes of reading a day can open doors to new places, experiences, knowledge, or words.

That's why book access at home is so important. North Carolina children are fortunate that Imagination Library mails age-appropriate books to every enrolled 0-5 year old in our state each month. Families who share these books with their children are helping them learn the daily reading habit early, probably without even realizing it. To all those parents out there, I say, "Plant those seeds early and they will grow".

-Dr. Garrie Moore, Bethel Youth Center Executive Director

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/>

If you have a child who is not enrolled in Imagination Library or know a child who is not enrolled, search online for [ImaginationLibraryNC](https://www.imaginationlibrarync.org/) or use this [Smart Start](#) link to ENROLL.



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 notice these flaps, but they're very important. Dolly Parton added them to her books to give every parent or caregiver some ideas for reading aloud and enjoying books with their children.



Below are some suggestions for things you can talk about or try before, during, and after reading the story *Milo's Hat Trick*, by Jon Agee. You can find more ideas on the book flap, or try coming up with some on your own!

Starting Up:

Before opening the book, talk about what magicians do and what a magician's hat trick could be. Ask what animal the magician might be trying to catch in the cover illustration. Use the carrot as a clue!

Reading the Story:

Look together for the bear in silly places. Point out the bear's nose or feet sticking out of the hat.

When the policeman is looking, can your child find where the bear is hiding?

After Reading the Story:

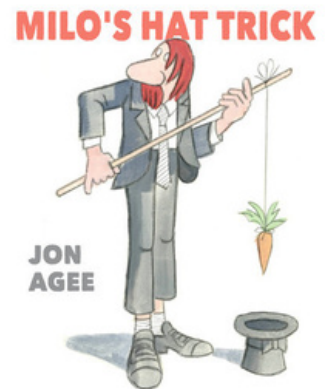
Ask your child questions about the story like:

- At the beginning, the theater manager was furious and Milo was sad. Why?
- If you were a magician, what animal would you like to reveal in your show?

Learning on the Go:

Try some magic tricks at home! Grab a hat and take turns with your child making common objects disappear. (It doesn't have to be perfect!) Pretend there is an audience and take a bow.

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 *Hair Love*, by Matthew A. Cherry, 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.

What does Zuri mean when she says "I love that my hair lets me be me"?

How do you think Zuri felt when her dad's styles didn't turn out perfectly? How can you tell? (Notice the expressions on Zuri's face.)

Why did Zuri want her hair to be perfect? (Think about why it was going to be a special day.)



Build Vocabulary with simple explanations.

Proud: feeling good about yourself or something you did and worked hard on.

Professional: a person who is very good at doing something and does that for their job (like a teacher or a professional baseball player).

Gather: to get things together all in one place.



Connect to Kids' Worlds and share your own stories.

Zuri is proud of her hair. Tell about a time when you felt proud, and help your child think of something that makes them feel proud.

Talk about a time when you or your child got your hair styled in a special way.

Talk about the activities you and your child do together in the morning.



You might also have recently received the book *Play With Me*, written and illustrated by Marie Hall Ets. This book is a Caldecott Honor Book, which means it was recognized as having some of the best illustrations the year it was written.

Talk about the pictures. When you are reading *Play With Me* with your child, explain that the illustrator is the person who draws the pictures in a book and take time to enjoy the detailed illustrations on each page.

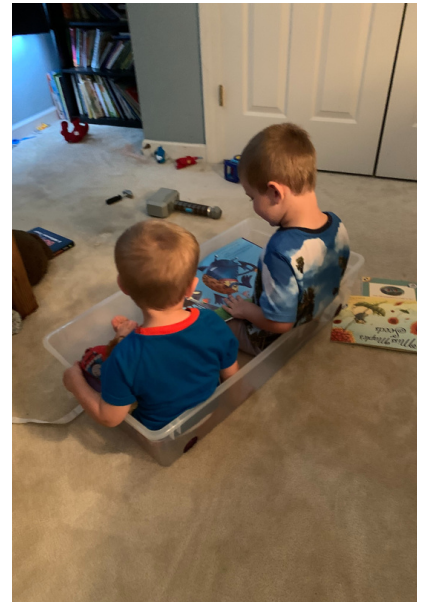
Make predictions. *Play With Me* has a lot of repetition, which makes it a great book for making predictions. After reading the first few pages and noticing what happens each time the girl tries to catch an animal, help your child predict what will happen when each new animal comes along. Toward the end of the book, encourage your child to predict what might happen when the girl sits very quietly and doesn't move. What will the animals do?

Read it again, and have your child read along. This is also a great book for rereading. As you reread, encourage your child to read some of the repetitive parts along with you. For example, let them say the part where the girl talks to each of the animals ("Will you play with me?"). Point to the words as your child reads them. This will help them understand how books work.

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

Our family has had so much fun receiving books from the Imagination Library over the years! I have really appreciated the diversity of characters, themes, and lessons that we have experienced through the books, which has led to beautiful conversations. The new books each month have also brought my kids together by giving them something they can be excited about and explore. We have our favorite books that have become part of our everyday lives and are so special to us. Without IL, we may never have met some of the characters that have become like family to us! We are so grateful Imagination Library is available to our community.

-Kelly Weaver, Parent of Jude and Gibson,
Imagination Library recipients



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, 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 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>

Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children:

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

FYI Newsletter Editors:

Dr. Kimberly Anderson, Dr. Terry Atkinson,
Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty, Madison Wildman, &
Courtney McCarthy
Dept. of Literacy Studies
ECU College of Education
<https://blog.ecu.edu/sites/ilkis/>

With special thanks to:

United Way of Pitt County
Martin Pitt Partnership for Children
The State of North Carolina
READ ENC Community Literacy Coalition

East Carolina University
Smith Family Foundation
Vidant Health



LIVE UNITED

252-758-1604

Email: uway@uwpcnc.org

Website: <https://www.uwpcnc.org>



MARTIN-PITT
Partnership for Children
a partner in the
mart start network

Pitt County Office
252-758-8885

Martin County Office
252-758-8885

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