

FYI: Free Your Imagination

A Quarterly Newsletter for Imagination Library Families

THIS ISSUE:

Our Message to You!

Emphasizing Letters & Words While Reading

Featured Books of the Month

Community Events



A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Dr. Seuss once said, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” As a community, let’s work together to read to our children and open a world of possibilities. Through the generosity of Pitt County’s United Way, Imagination Library books are mailed to every enrolled child from birth until their 5th birthday.

This is an amazing collection of high quality children’s books that can begin the journey of a lifetime. By making time to read every day and talking about what you read, we can build children’s vocabulary and improve their reading and writing skills. Most importantly, we model for them what it means to be a lifelong reader and lifelong learner. So, “You’re off to Great Places! Today is your day!” Grab a book and (together) let’s get on the way.

-Tracy Cole East Carolina University Community School Principal



Register TODAY at [https://www.smartstart.org/dolly-partons-
imagination-library/](https://www.smartstart.org/dolly-partons-
imagination-library/) 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



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

-This book has words on the left and right pages. Occasionally ask your child, "Where do I start reading? Which side?"

-After reading the book a couple of times, help your child point to the words while you read.



Learning about Letters

-Have your child point to letters they know in the title, like the letters in their name.

-Point to and name specific letters in the title that you think your child is ready to learn. The letters P and C might be good choices, since young children generally find it easier to learn capital letters.

Learning about Words

-Explain how the pictures on the left-hand pages can help you figure out the words at the bottom of those pages.

-After reading the book a couple of times while your child points to the words, gradually allow them to take over the reading while they point. The repeating pattern and the pictures should help them remember the words.



Learning about Books

-Tell your child that this story has been around for a long time - you might even remember it from when you were a child!

-Talk about the pictures on the front and back covers and read the question on the back. What does your child think is going to happen?

-As you read, point out the speech bubbles and explain that those mean someone is talking.



Learning about Letters

-After reading the book a couple of times, go on a "Letter Hunt" for some of the letters that really stand out, like the letter S in 'STRAW', 'STICKS', and 'BRICKS', or the letter K in 'KNOCK', 'KNOCK', 'KNOCK'. Encourage your child to name the letter each time they find it.

Learning about Words

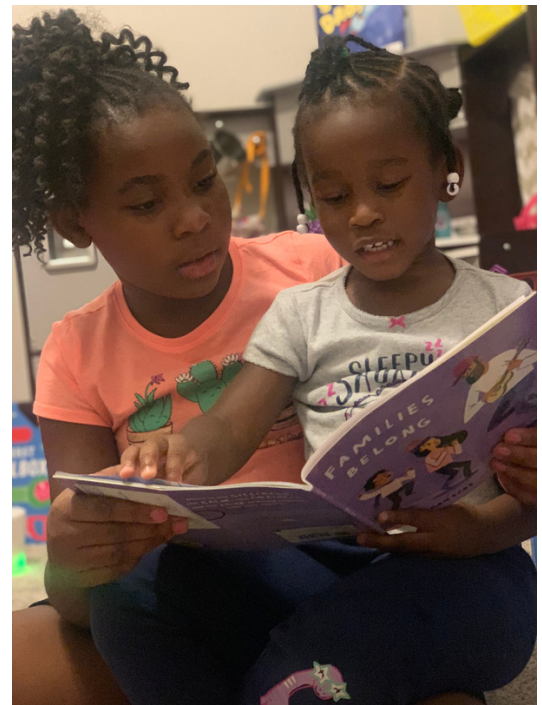
-Encourage your child to read the repeating sentence, "Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!" Help them point to the words as they read them.

-When the wolf falls into the boiling water, point to the word 'OW'. Help your child point and say the word 'OW' each time they see it on the page.

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

Imagination Library has been amazing. The choice of books has been great. We have a blended family and we are receiving books that our girls are able to see themselves in. Both of our girls wait in expectation each month for a new book!

~Taimak and Portia Willis, parents of Kennedy and Makayla



If you have a child who is not enrolled in Imagination Library or know a child who is not enrolled, ENROLL them today at [https://www.smartstart.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/](https://www.smartstart.org/dolly-partons-<u>imagination-library</u>/)!



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/mppfc/>

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READ ENC Community Literacy Coalition	Vidant Health
The State of North Carolina	



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MARTIN-PITT
Partnership for Children

a partner in the
mart start network

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