

# Storytime Newsletter

Baker, Bradford, Union County Libraries

## The Essentials of Early Literacy

January 2017

Let's start off with a bit of background information about early literacy itself. The term "early literacy" refers to everything children know about reading and writing before they actually learn to read. Recent research on early literacy and child development indicates that it is never too early to start preparing children for reading success. Children who have been read to from an early age have a larger vocabulary, better language skills, and a greater interest in books, and they are more likely to want to learn to read than children who have not been

read to. In addition, research has shown that children need to develop certain skills in order to fully benefit from the reading instruction they receive when they arrive at school. Librarians, play a key role not only in helping to develop those skills, but also in educating parents and caregivers about their critical role as their child's first teacher.

There are six early literacy skills that children must develop in order to increase their likelihood of reading success. They are print motivation, phonological awareness, vocabulary, narrative skills, print awareness and

letter knowledge. Activities can be done that encourage the development of each of these six skills for reading success, activities must not only be incorporated into library storytimes, but also be practiced in the home by a child's caregivers. ....[cslpreads.org](http://cslpreads.org)

Over the next few months we will be taking a look at the six early literacy skills.



## January 18 – Winnie the Pooh Day

Winnie the Pooh, the "Bear of Very Little Brain," continues to be a bear with lots of fame. In fact, Pooh is honored every January 18th, otherwise known as Winnie the Pooh Day. That particular date was chosen

because it's the birthday of Alan Alexander Milne (A.A. Milne), author of *Winnie-the-Pooh* (1926) and *The House at Pooh Corner* (1928).

Without Milne, Pooh, Piglet, Tigger and the rest of the gang would

never have seen the light of day.

Did you know Winnie the Pooh actually existed? No, Milne didn't encounter a real bear, accompanied by a group of animal friends, wandering (continued on page 2)

### Storytimes at the Libraries

#### **Bradford Co. Public Library**

Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays

January 18 & 25

10am

Toddler Time

Fridays

January 20 & 27

11am

904-368-3911

#### **Union Co. Public Library**

Preschool Storytime

January is their planning period. Storytime will resume in February.

386-496-3432

### **TumbleBooks**

Online book service, watch a picture book or read along with the audio.

[www.newriver.lib.fl.us](http://www.newriver.lib.fl.us)

### **Dial a Story**

Stories for young children, changed weekly.

496-2542

or

1-888-4ATALE1

(1-888-428-2531)

# Books to Share

## One Cool Friend

By: Toni Buzzeo

On a spontaneous visit to the aquarium, straight-laced and proper Elliot discovers his dream pet: a penguin. When he asks his father if he may have one, his father says yes. Elliot should have realized that Dad was probably thinking of a toy penguin, not a real one... Clever illustrations and a wild surprise ending make this sly, silly tale a kid-pleaser from start to finish.

## Tackylacks and the Three Bears

By: Helen Lester

How do you keep a crowd of energetic young penguins entertained? Put on a play, perhaps? But will they pay attention through an entire performance? If Tacky's center stage, they might. Even in his flowing blond wig and little red "skipping shoes," everyone's favorite misfit penguin imbues the character of Goldilocks with his own indomitable personality and style. So what if the set is in shambles? This is

one performance Mrs. Beakly's students won't soon forget.

## Tony Baloney

By: Pam Munoz Ryan

Tony Baloney is a macaroni penguin. He loves fish tacos, Little Green Walrus Guys, his stuffed animal, Dandelion, and anything with wheels. He does not love trouble . . . but trouble loves him. Sometimes, when he is tired of Bossy Big Sister Baloney and exasperated with the Bothersome Babies Baloney, Dandelion behaves badly. And then, Tony must say he is sorry, which is not always easy for him. Whether you are a mischievous middle, a bossy biggest, or a bothersome baby, you are sure to root for Tony Baloney and find yourself, or someone you love, in the Baloney family.

## Aarrgghh! Spider

By: Lydia Monks

Don't let this lonely spider frighten you! She just wants to be a family pet—and she thinks she would make a better pet than

the typical dog or cat. But every time this clever spider tries to impress her chosen family, she scares them instead, until the day she unwittingly enchants them. Aaaarrgghh! Spider! spins a lively tale about one creature's efforts to find her place.

## Houdini The Amazing Caterpillar

By: Janet Pedersen

Houdini, a classroom caterpillar who loves an audience, performs his most amazing trick of all in this magical picture book. Houdini the caterpillar loves the spotlight. And he has the best audience any performer could ask for: a classroom full of children. But when his usual tricks stop amazing his audience, Houdini needs to come up with a new act—something bold and colorful, something daring and surprising. Something his audience won't want to miss! What could it be?

*Thanks to Harriet, Children's Library Assistant at New River Public Library Cooperative, for providing content for this newsletter.*

# January 18 — Winnie the Pooh Day

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around the Hundred Acre Wood. But almost all of the characters in his books had real-life counterparts. Christopher Robin, Pooh's human companion, was named after Milne's own son, Christopher Robin Milne (who was less than thrilled about his inescapable association with the popular books as he got older). Winnie the Pooh

was Christopher's teddy bear. Christopher Milne also played with a stuffed piglet, a tiger, a pair of kangaroos and a down-trodden donkey (Owl and Rabbit were dreamt up solely for the books). And the Hundred Acre Wood closely resembles Ash-down Forest, where the Milnes had a nearby home. Today the original toys that inspired Milne (and his son) can

still be seen at the New York Public Library. (All except Roo, that is—he was lost in the 1930s.)  
...biography.com

