

# Storytime Newsletter

Baker, Bradford, Union County Libraries

## The Essentials of Early Literacy

March 2017

Continued from the February Newsletter these are the last three of the early literacy skills that children must develop in order to increase their likelihood of reading success.

The fourth skill, **narrative skills**, is the child's ability to describe events, tell stories, or retell stories that have been heard. This helps the child to understand what he or she is reading and leads to better comprehension. Rereading favorite stories is an essential way to develop this skill. Eventually the child will be able to retell the story based upon memory using the illustrations as a guide. Caregivers can also ask children to tell their own stories about something that happened in

the past, such as a visit to the zoo or a day at preschool.

The fifth skill, **print awareness**, involves the child noticing print and becoming able to follow the written word on a page. It also includes the child learning how to handle a book. When children become comfortable with how books work and how language flows on the page, they can concentrate on reading. Board books are a wonderful way in which the youngest children can learn how to handle books and how to turn the pages. Caregivers can follow the text with their fingers as they read to illustrate that the words tell the story and to show the directionality of the text on the page (left to right is

English). Words that are repeated in a story can be pointed out, as well as words that are commonly seen on familiar objects or in familiar places, such as "stop" or "exit."

The sixth skill, **letter knowledge**, is learning that letters differ from one another and have unique names and sounds. This is important because in order to read, children must understand that words are composed of a group of letters and that each letter brings its own sound to the word. Reading alphabet books, pointing out letters on objects, making letters from modeling compound, playing with magnetic letters and writing words that interest the child are all ways in which children can develop letter knowledge.

...www.cslpreads.org

## March – National Nutrition Month

**Raising Healthy Eaters from Preschool to High School:** Food, nutrition and eating skills are among the most important things you can share with children — food to fuel busy, successful lives, nutrition to nourish strong bodies and smart brains, and

eating skills to enjoy the social aspect of meals with family and friends.

As with any part of raising children, no one does a perfect job with nutrition, not even nutrition professionals. As a parent, grandparent or adult caregiver, you can help raise healthy

eaters during these critical years by doing your best to:

- Serve regular, balanced meals and snacks with a variety of nutrient-rich foods.
- Provide calm, pleasant mealtimes (continued on page 2)

### Storytime at the Libraries

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

Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays

10am

Toddler Time

Fridays

11am

904-368-3911

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

Preschool Storytime

Thursdays

10am and 1pm

No Program on

March 9th

386-496-3432

### **TumbleBooks**

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

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

## Boom! Boom! Boom!

By: Jamie Swenson

A storm rages outdoors as a boy goes to bed with his teddy bear. With each flash of lightning and boom of thunder, another household pet arrives at his bedside, hoping to join him. He welcomes the dog, the cat, and the guinea pig, but after the frog, the parrot, and the snake squeeze in, it's a bit too snug. When his sister arrives, the boy turns her down. She leaps onto the bed, causing all kinds of chaos before bringing this satisfying picture book to a fitting conclusion.

## Let's Sing a Lullaby with the Brave Cowboy

By: Jan Thomas

Join the Brave Cowboy as he tries to sing his young calf pals to sleep on a dark, dark night—EEEEEEK! IS THAT A HUGE HAIRY SPIDER OVER THERE? Oh, it's just a flower? Well then, back to the lullaby. No one does preschool humor with Jan Thomas's wit, verve, and bold, snappy color. And her Brave Cowboy and his silly, interrupted lullaby are sure to get *everybody* singing—before they head off into cozy dreamland...

## Time to sleep, Sheep the Sheep!

By: Mo Willems

This get-ready-for-bed picture book starring Cat the Cat, with cameos by among others, Pig the Pig, Giraffe the Giraffe, Crab the Crab, etc. Cat tells each of the animals, who are engaged in various nighttime pursuits (reading a book, washing up, brushing teeth, going potty), that it's time to sleep. A perfectly well-timed joke arrives courtesy of the pop-eyed owl one assumes to be Owl the Owl. He definitely isn't ready for bed, but his arrival caps off this smiles-all-around, understated tour of pre-bedtime activities.

## Louella Mae, She's Run Away!

By: Karen Beaumont Alarcon

"Louella Mae, she's run away! Look in the cornfields! Look in the hay!" Can you guess where Louella Mae might be? This playful interactive text invites the reader to participate in the search that takes place on a large family farm. And there's a surprise in store for whoever finds the elusive Louella Mae!

## Farmers Duck

By: Martin Waddell

Farmer Duck is no ordinary duck--and this is no ordinary picture book. A glorious and utterly satisfying modern fable illustrated with that special blend of humor and pathos unique to bestselling artist Helen Oxenbury.

## Rooster Can't Cock-a-Doodle-Do

By: Karen Rostoker-Gruber

Rooster has a sore throat and can't cock-a-doodle-doo. Farmer Ted is sleeping, and there's no one to gather the eggs, milk the cows, shear the sheep, and feed the pigs. Rooster needs help--and fast. Working together, Rooster and the other animals come up with some madcap but effective ways to wake Farmer Ted and complete the day's chores. But can they do it all before sunset? A barn-full of laughs is guaranteed in this fun-filled book about friendship and cooperation.

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



# March – National Nutrition Month

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- where adults and children can talk together.
- Allow children to use their internal signals to decide how much and what to eat.
- Explore a variety of flavors and foods from different cultures and cuisines.
- Share an appreciation for healthful food, lovingly prepared and shared with others.
- Make food safety, including

washing hands, a part of every eating occasion.

- Teach basic skills for making positive food choices away from home.
- Find credible food and nutrition resources when you don't know the answer.

While this may seem like an intimidating list, two family habits go a long way in making this happen: regular family meals and involving kids in nutrition from the

ground up.

**Get Kids Involved in Nutrition:** Nutrition is just one of many reasons to have a garden. The process of planting, watching over and harvesting a garden provides daily opportunities for children to learn valuable lessons and enjoy physical activity, while reaping the fruits (and vegetables) of their labor. ....eatright.org

