

Preschool Tidings

From Bethlehem Public Library

News and Information for Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers

Hello Laura,

Winter can be hard for parents with little ones. It's cold outside, and there are less things to do than at other times of the year. But it's also an opportunity to cuddle up and read together. This issue has a few ideas to help with that. And it only takes a few minutes a day. You can even break it up over the course of the day. Relax and do whatever works for your family.

Our Preschool Story Time is a great way to get out for a little while, meet other parents, and let your child make friends and have fun. You do not need to live in Bethlehem to attend any of our programs, so invite your friends and join the Tuesday play group at the library.

From our catalog, we've highlighted some picture books with no words. These books are important for pre-readers. With no words, children draw meaning from the pictures, learn story structure, and strengthen their confidence and independence. They'll be proud to tell you they can read it themselves!

Enjoy, and we'll see you soon at the library!

Laura

Laura Clerkin
Library Director
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Tuesdays 11am

For children ages 2-5 and their caregivers.

Join Miss Kami for stories, songs, activities and crafts. Something new each week.

Upcoming themes:

- 1/21 Skiing
- 1/28 Candy
- 2/4 Doll Houses
- 2/11 Valentines



10 Tips for Reading Aloud with Children

from New York Public Library

1. **All reading is good reading.**

That includes books with commercial characters, comics, and nonfiction.

2. **Find a comfortable space to read together.**

The love of reading is built around our cultural connection to books and hearing stories. Being in a cozy environment while reading will help create those loving connections. It's also good to carry a book with you wherever you go—reading in a crowded space like a busy subway can soothe and distract.

3. **Slow down.**

It takes time to process what's happening on the page. You can pause on a page to look more closely at pictures before turning the page.

4. **Ask and answer questions together.**

If you come across a word or concept your child or students don't know, ask them what they think it means. And if you don't know, it's OK to say that! Explore unknowns together: these moments are opportunities to discuss the book and what is happening in connection to the world around us and capitalize on curiosity.

5. **Be yourself.**

You don't have to be an entertainer while you're reading a great book! This is especially true when reading one-on-one with a child. The bond already exists and the moment is special because it is your voice.

6. **Read ahead!**

Rhythm and meter are part of the magic of storytelling, so a little pre-reading can make a big difference. Flip through the pages before you start so you know what happens in the story and can check that it's appropriate for your audience and moment. This will help you identify key moments for social-emotional learning.

7. **Embrace wordless picture books.**

Books without words are an opportunity for you and your child to invent a new story each time. Wordless picture books are also a great opportunity to think and talk about what is

happening—and to predict what will happen next!

*****See our wordless books below*****

8. **Don't worry about age or grade level.**

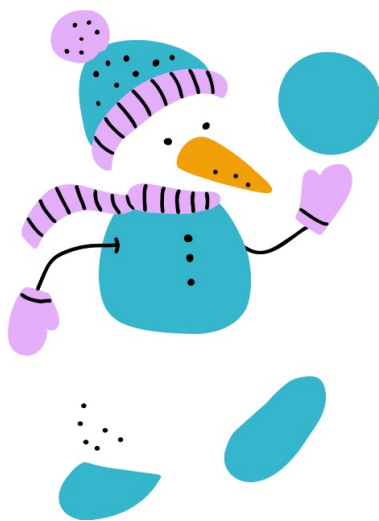
Even if a book isn't entirely age-appropriate or seems a little advanced, you can still try reading different parts of it each time. You also don't need to rush into bigger books because they are labeled as being more age-appropriate.

9. **You don't have to finish a book.**

Don't make reading a chore! Sometimes the best thing to do is to stop. If your audience is running around or not interested, come back to it later or ditch it entirely! You can even come back to it much later: revisiting stories at a later age can create an entirely new and wonderful experience.

10. **Make reading aloud part of your routine.**

This is especially valuable for our littlest ones, who crave structure for comfort and early learning. Make bedtime or tummy time a good time for reading. Plus, if children see you reading, you're modeling great reading behavior that sets the foundation for future readership.



Special Event: Winter Fun Fest

Saturday January 25th 11am

For families with kids 3-8 yrs old

Outdoor fun!

We'll have a sled hill out back (so bring your sled), as well as other fun activities: paint the snow, ice bubbles, forts, and winter crafts. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll still have indoor activities.

Cocoa and cookies will be served.

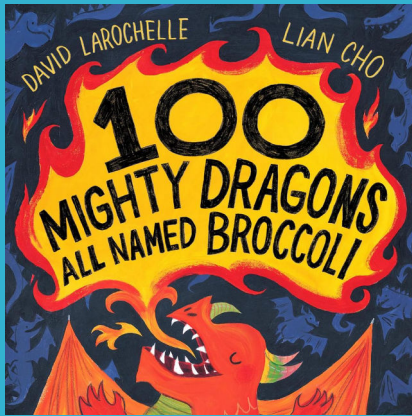


Thanks to the Demco Education Resource Team for this month's suggestions

Fun Activities to Promote Pre-Reading Skills

- How many words rhyme with "new" and "year"?
- Play "I Spy" to practice description words.
- Open a book. Ask your child how many words they can find that begin with the first letter of their name.
- January 16th is Appreciate a Dragon Day! Check out some of our dragon books, such as Attack of the Underwear Dragon and Dragons love Tacos!
- Sing while you do everyday activities such as putting on socks and shoes.
- Check out a nonfiction book about your child's favorite animal. Look at the pictures and read the captions together.

- Ask your child to tell you a story about what they would do if they were a snowman.
- January 25th is Opposite Day! Read your child's favorite book backwards!
- Go to the library and ask the librarian to recommend a rhyming book.



Ladybug Award Winner!
Click book to read more!

New Hampshire children have chosen *100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli* by David LaRochelle and Lian Cho as the winner of the 2024 Ladybug Picture Book Award. There were 19,116 votes cast this year at 149 sites throughout the state. The winning book received 4,885 votes.

The Ladybug Picture Book Award is designed to promote early literacy and honor the best in recent children's picture books. Librarians from around the state select 9 picture book titles each spring. Then, during November, New Hampshire children from preschoolers to those in third grade choose the award winner. The winning picture book is announced at the end of the year.



Already signed up, but lost track?
No problem, we'll help you restart!!

At certain points your child gets:

- a book store gift certificate
- t-shirt
- book bag
- photo in the paper!

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program

Goal: read 1000 Books before your child reaches age 6 or starts school, whichever comes first.

It's Easy!

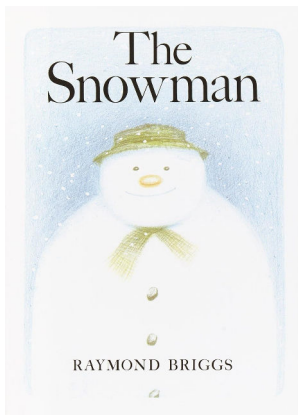
- Read ANY book
- Read the same book over and over
- Read one book a night
= 365 books in a year
= 730 books in two years = 1,095 books in three years.

[Click here for more information!](#)

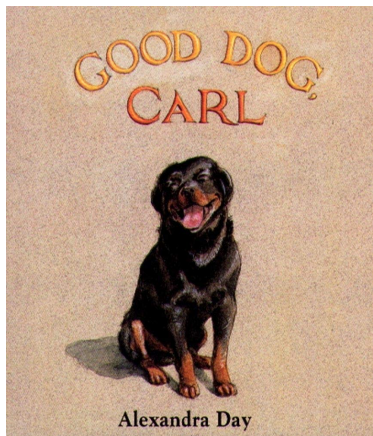
Already started 1000 Books?

[Click here for a new tracking sheet](#)

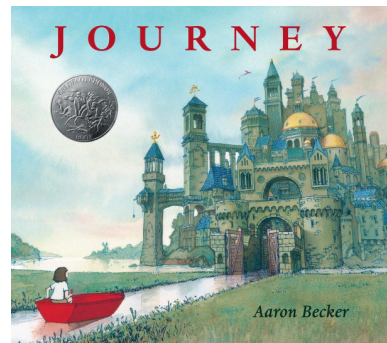
Click on the book cover to learn more and to reserve for pick up



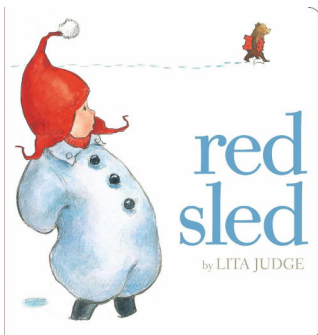
When his snowman comes to life, a little boy invites him home and in return is taken on a flight high above the countryside.



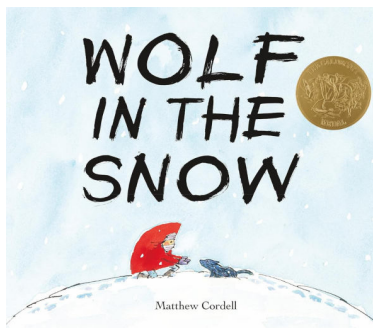
Lively and unusual things happen when Carl the dog is left in charge of the baby.



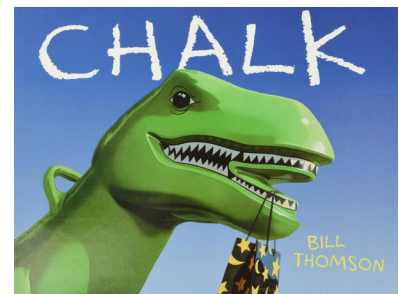
A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound. The first of a trilogy.



A host of woodland creatures take a child's sled for a nighttime joy ride.



When a wolf cub and little girl are lost in a snowstorm they must find their way home.



Three children go to a park on a rainy day, find some chalk, and draw pictures that come to life.

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[Click here to sign up!](#)



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