

JULY Newsletter



Early literacy plants seeds of knowledge and joy

Literacy helps transform young learners into engaged and knowledgeable citizens. Immersing children in a world of stories, experiences and adventures helps them develop the communication skills they need in everyday life and prepares them to successfully interact throughout their lifetimes. Early language and literacy (reading and writing) is especially critical in the first 3 years of life and is closely linked to a child's earliest experiences with books and stories.

When thinking about books, think about this:

For all babies

- Simple, bold, high contrast illustrations
- Black and white is best for newborns
- Short text (3-5 words per page spread)
- Rhyming text, nursery rhymes and songs
- Vocabulary builders: 1 image, 1 word per page
- Board books for developing page-turning skills

For older babies

- Interactive textured books
- Lift the flap "Peek-a-boo" books

For toddlers

- Concept books: counting, colors, shapes
- Longer text, but still 1 or 2 short sentences
- Simple, concrete storylines; nothing abstract like pretending to go to space
- Stories that feature experiences toddlers can relate to: bedtime, bath time, mealtime, families

Source: Fort Vancouver Regional Library

Summer is a great time for Storytime with your local library.

At home on the screen, or in person at your favorite library, reading and story-telling peaks the imagination, feeds the soul and engages children of all ages.

Join your local library for [virtual storytimes](#) with your children!

Thank you,

Debbie Ham
Executive Director

Literacy and Dolly Parton go hand-in-hand

161,474,917. That's the number of books gifted to children since the Dolly Parton Imagination Library was conceived in 1995. SELF recently became an affiliate and will be working with local organizations to bring Dolly's Imagination Library concept to Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties. While there's still lots of planning work to do, we're excited to be part of Dolly's dream of inspiring a love for reading. Watch for more information to come soon.

"Let's share this dream that all children should grow up in a home full of books."

"The first step is always the hardest, but you'll never know unless you try..."

- Dolly Parton

Teacher's Book Pick - The World Needs Who You Were Made To Be

"You're one of a kind, and it's so clear to see: The world needs who you were made to be."

A hot air balloon adventure celebrates every child and teaches them that "we are in this together." In this delightful children's picture book, Joanna Gaines and illustrator Julianna Swaney celebrate how creativity and acceptance can come together to make for a bright and beautiful adventure.

The book follows a group of children as they each build their very own hot-air balloons. As the kids work together, leaning into their own skills and processes, to fill the sky with beautiful colors, we discover that the same is true for life--it's more beautiful and vibrant when our differences are celebrated.

Let's Do This!!

Give More 24! brings together our entire region for 24 hours of generosity. By giving together, and boosting donations through match dollars and nonprofit prizes, we have the potential to make one incredible impact. Let's work together on **September 23rd** to turn up the volume on giving for SELF! It's easy to do, go to givemore24.org, search for **Support for Early Learning and Families** and **donate!!**

DONATE