



# Coalition Courier

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## Lancaster County Reach Out and Read Coalition

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## Spring into Reading

We've survived the winter and welcome spring! Spring brings bunches of flowers and a whole bunch of reading opportunities. The month of April is especially chock full of literacy events.

April is National Poetry Month. Poetry is especially good for young children. Babies and young children love the sounds of favorite rhymes. They also help them to begin to recognize and identify sounds, which is extremely important component in emergent literacy. In addition poems can be short; perfect for little ones who have short attention spans.

Check out the 2009 Read with Kids Challenge, a national effort sponsored by RIF (Reading is Fundamental) and US Airways to collectively log 5 million minutes reading with kids. All participants are eligible to win a family vacation to the Walt Disney World Resort® and more great prizes. This event starts April 1. Get on board at [www.rif.org/readwithkids](http://www.rif.org/readwithkids)

Celebrate National Library Week, April 12-18, 2009. This year's theme is "Worlds connect @ your library®".

In honor of author Beverly Cleary's birthday April 12<sup>th</sup> is also National Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) Day. You can do it right at home or to make the day more special, maybe go to a bookstore or the library...it is National Library Week after all!

Week of the Young Child is April 19-25, 2009. "Early Years Are Learning Years". Young children will enjoy literacy based activities at the library such as Preschool Storytime, Sing, Sign and Storytime, and Lapsit which consists of some singing, stories, fingerplays, and other fun things to do with books.

Get out there. Enjoy the spring and enjoy reading with children!



## How to Get Inexpensive (or Free) Books

Often times we'd like to get some new books, but our budgets don't always cooperate. Following are some tips for families to keep the books coming without breaking the bank!

First, for truly free books, there is the good old library! Don't forget this invaluable resource for a great variety of books.

But, what if you want to keep the books? There are other resources available as well.

Try setting up a book exchange with people you know. It can be a formal book club, or just set up a place to leave books, and when you're done reading a book, leave it and take another. Get creative. Include friends, family, neighbors, coworkers and classmates.

What if you're looking for a specific book? You may want to check out online book swapping services! You usually have to pay for shipping, but they're as close to free as you're going to get.

Thrift shops are great sources of used books. The inventory is constantly changing at these stores. So make regular trips to see what's new. In addition to finding some great books you also help a good cause and get books for only cents. When you're finished with your books, you can also donate them back to the charity.

Now that the weather is getting nicer, don't forget about yard sales! You'll often find literary gems among the other items. Parents frequently sell children's books after their kids have "outgrown" them.

When you're finished with your books, you can take advantage of the services listed above, or you can donate them to Reach Out and Read. Call us at 717-299-6372, ext 6217 to find out how!



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To Volunteer,  
or learn more about  
Reach Out and Read,  
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