



Coalition Courier

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Lancaster County Reach Out and Read Coalition

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Novel Ideas for Young Children

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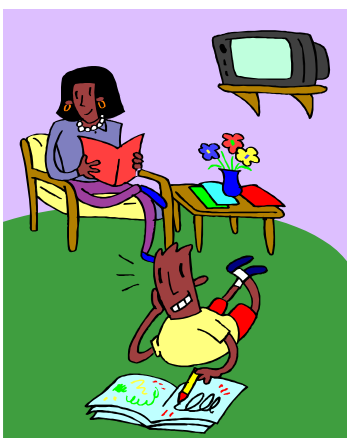
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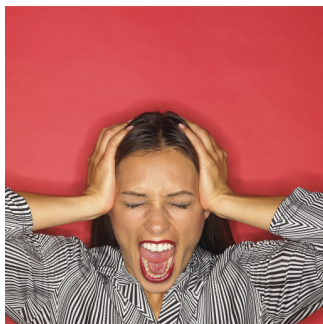
All children can benefit from being involved in print-related activities. These activities can include hearing stories, drawing, coloring or even scribbling. Children can also learn that we can communicate by writing and receiving letters. For young children the letters can even be made up of pictures, drawings and scribbles. They can write a letter to grandma or grandpa, or even an imaginary friend. Encourage your child to “write” a letter and explain the story to you.

It’s also important for children to see their parents and other role models use print to accomplish real goals in their daily lives. Children can learn that a shopping list helps us to remember which items we need from the grocery store. They can learn that a yummy treat is the result of following a recipe.

Children also need to learn about various concept of print. As adults we take these ideas for granted because they have become part of our everyday lives. These concepts include knowing to turn pages from right to left and to read print from left to right. Children also need to know that a book has to be right side up to able to read the words and to see the pictures. When reading with your child, be sure to follow the words with your finger, so the child begins to understand these concepts.

Studies show that children who are exposed to using reading and writing for functional purposes can develop many skills. These skills can help them to listen, speak, use other forms of communication, and to eventually read and write. The preschool years are when children can learn the important concepts that will help them to communicate to the best of their abilities. By following these and other concepts you’re preparing your child to become a reader, writer and communicator.





Parents Need Options

We're only half-way through summer and so far things have probably been going fairly well for families. The weather's been nice, older kids aren't too bored yet and moms, dads and caregivers are surviving. However, there's at least another month before school starts. Many families are unable to travel due to rising expenses and the struggling economy. Temperatures will be hitting the 90s and chances are that families will start to get on each others' nerves.

Medical providers are in a unique situation to identify and suggest options to help parents maintain their sanity and help them keep their "cool" in the dog days of summer.

Here are some free and low-cost, literacy-rich alternatives for families to do in Lancaster County during the rest of the summer.

- Visit your public library regularly to keep a fresh supply of books on hand
- Exchange books with other families
- Write a letter with your child
- Buy books at used bookstores for an inexpensive alternative
- Catch the Summer Reading Bug at your Lancaster County Public Library (Summer Reading Program is open to children and teens of all ages...Hurry, it ends August 9th!)
- Check with local bookstores to see when they're holding story times

Attention:

Reach Out and Read Program Coordinators

*Call for your used book needs.
We have what you need in
inventory.*

Coordinators' Corner

**Are you looking for something new to add your ROR program?
Try out some of these ideas...**

1. Have the medical provider at your ROR site "autograph" each book that is distributed.
2. Decorate each room based on a different child's book. You might want get book posters, stuffed animals, etc.!
3. Have the administrator that checks each patient out ask the child what book they received. This will help generate excitement for the child and parent.
4. Recruit a volunteer to be solely responsible for maintaining the reading corner. This ownership will generate pride in your reading area.



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