
Diane Potratz
EAGLE Coordinator

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EAGLE is a Literacy Resource Program for individuals working with 0 – 5 year old children. Its focus is to provide age-appropriate programming for this age group to enhance school readiness skills.



Literacy Begins at Birth!

Literacy involves so much more than just reading books, and the skills that assist children in being able to learn to read when they reach kindergarten begin developing as soon as a child is born. The years from infancy through preschool should be a time of preparation and support, so that your child can begin kindergarten ready to learn to read. Everyday activities such as playtime, bath time, and bedtime can be wonderful opportunities to create enjoyable experiences that promote reading readiness.

By simply holding and cuddling your newborn baby, you help to create new connections in your child's brain in addition to forming the secure attachment that is so important to a child's overall healthy development. By talking to your baby often, and singing lullabies and nursery rhymes, you are promoting reading readiness! These skills need to be nurtured right from birth in order for a child to reach his or her fullest potential when the time comes to learn to read. Babies learn best from positive interaction with other humans. The following are literacy readiness activities suggested in *Every Child Ready to Read: Literacy Tips for Parents* from the Lee Pesky Learning Center. These activities are intended for infants from birth to eighteen months of age:

Activities to Promote Oral Language and Vocabulary:

- Carry on conversations with infants. Notice how they listen and respond during pauses. Show lots of facial expression, especially smiles, while playing with infants
- Show babies items in their environment and name them. Name and talk about common things such as the cat, blanket, chair, and rug. This helps children to learn that everything has a name.
- Speak to your infant, talking with exaggerated changes in pitch and stretching out words.
- Play the bag game. Put six to eight small toys or common household objects (larger than 2-3 inches to avoid choking potential) in a container. Allow your baby to pull items out and explore them. Tell her the name of the object and join in the play. Describe your actions such as "I am putting the red coaster under the car."

Remember to always follow your baby's lead and never force an activity. If your baby grows tired of a game, choose another one or stop for the time being. Have fun! Remember that babies and young children learn through play!

Schedule of Events

**Parents – please post this on your refrigerator as a reminder of these upcoming events.

Key: (TYPE OF EVENT) P/C = Parent & Child C = Child P = Parent DC= Day Care Providers

| Floyd County | Mitchell County | Chickasaw County |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Thursday, February 8 Registered Daycare Provider Crate Rotations in Floyd County (DC)</p> | <p>Thursday, February 1 at 9-3 Book Distribution at Mitchell County WIC Clinic in Osage (P/C)</p> | <p>Wednesday, February 21 at 9-5 Book Distribution at Chickasaw County WIC Clinic in New Hampton (P/C)</p> |
| <p>Saturday, February 10 at 10-11 AM Nature Tales Program at the Fossil and Prairie Center in Rockford. The topic will be “Reptiles.” Pre-registration is appreciated for this free program. To register, call Heidi at (641) 756-3490. (P/C)</p> | <p>Thursday, February 7 Registered Daycare Provider Crate Rotations in Mitchell County (DC)</p> | <p>Monday, February 12 Registered Daycare Provider Crate Rotations in Chickasaw County (DC)</p> |

Spring Library Programs

Each program lasts about an hour and includes a story, activities, and a free book for each participating child. Parents will be asked to fill out a short evaluation to help EAGLE maintain funding and find new ways to reach out to the communities. Check the “Schedule of Events” in upcoming EAGLE newsletters to see when a public library near you has scheduled one of the following EAGLE programs this Spring:



The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster

The kitchen window in this little girl’s grandparent’s house is no ordinary window. You can play games in it, scare somebody, tap on it and hide with glee. It can be a mirror at night, an entry into imaginative worlds, and when visiting – a place to say hello and goodbye.

The Itsy Bitsy Spider by Iza Trapani

Follow the familiar spider through her famous waterspout climb and beyond as she encounters a blowing fan, a mischievous mouse, a wily cat and more, in this charming expansion of the popular song.



Kindermusik to offer FREE Demo Classes

Come see what all the excitement is about! Kindermusik classes not only are fun but there is a purpose behind our “play.”

Come check us out for FREE! There will be Demo classes on Saturday February 17th at 9 AM and 10 AM at the Charles City NIACC Center. There will be a drawing for ½ price tuition! Call 641-228-2973 to reserve a spot.

New curriculum and classes will be starting up in March for age birth to 3-1/2 year olds. They will be held on Tuesday nights at the NIACC Charles City Center and will go through May.