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**Resource Centers and  
Lending Libraries**  
Erie Elementary  
Prophetstown Elementary  
Tampico Elementary  
Wallace Education Center  
Southside School  
Merrill School

**Administered By**  
Whiteside County Regional  
Superintendent's Office

# *Whiteside County* **PARENTS AS TEACHERS**

*1001 West 23rd Street*  
*Sterling, IL 61081*

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## ***Parent to Parent***

Brandi Schuldt has made arrangements for P.A.T. families to order from the Scholastic Book Club. Each month you will find great deals on books you and your child would love to own. You may pick up an order form the next time you visit the Merrill or Wallace library. If you have questions, please call Brandi at 815-622-0508 or email her at [<bigal@essex1.com>](mailto:bigal@essex1.com).



Do you have information you would like to pass on to the families who read this newsletter? If so, ***Parent to Parent*** is an opportunity for you to do so.

To celebrate **Family Reading Night**, we have planned several story hours for you and your children in November.

Check the enclosed activity schedules for dates and times.

Parents As Teachers offers the following information about reading to your children.

## **Reasons to Read to Your Child**

When you share a book or other reading material with your child, you help his development in the following ways:

### **Language**

- Improve his listening skills.
- Expand his vocabulary.
- Learn more complex sentence structure for better speaking and writing.
- Learn to read more easily and confidently when the time comes.

### **Intellectual**

- Improve his memory.
- Develop a life-long curiosity and love of learning.
- Expand his understanding of his world.
- Expand his imagination.

# Helping Your Children Become Better Readers

*The following information is an excerpt from a guide prepared by Reading is Fundamental (RIF), and made available through the American Academy of Pediatrics by Visa U.S.A. For the complete Checkup Guide, see the American Academy of Pediatrics web site [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org).*

## Newborns to age two

It's never too soon to begin reading to your child. Babies enjoy hearing a parent's voice, even if they can't understand the words. They soak up language and attention. Toddlers and twos can listen longer and follow a simple story. They focus on pictures, but they are learning some of "the basics" about reading, such as how to hold a book and turn the pages. They are also learning to love it.

### **It's okay if your child...**

1. Teethes on books or handles them roughly at first. Babies treat books like toys.
2. Quickly loses interest or is easily distracted when you read. Skip to a favorite page.
3. Wants to read the same story over and over again. Children learn through repetition.
4. Shows little interest in reading. Put the book down and try again later.

### **How you can help...**

- Read aloud to a young baby for only a few minutes at a time. Read a little longer as your older baby or toddler is willing to listen.
- Point to things in picture books and name them. As your children learn to talk ask them to "point and say."
- Set aside at least one regularly-scheduled time each day for reading. Make it a part of your toddler's routine. Also take toddlers to the library or book store for story hour.
- Recite nursery rhymes and sing songs. Rhymes help develop a young child's ear for language.

### **Book shelf:**

- Cloth, vinyl and board books that are durable for babies
- Books with familiar objects for naming
- Simple stories about a toddler's everyday experiences
- A collection of Mother Goose or other nursery rhymes

## Preschoolers, Ages three to five years

Preschoolers are aware of print in the world around them and on the page. They may pretend to read favorite books. This "pretend reading" helps set the stage for real reading, and helps children think of themselves as readers.

### **It's okay if your child...**

1. Asks a lot of questions while you read.  
Children learn through talking about books.
2. Can't sit still for a story. Some children listen better while drawing or playing with a toy.
3. Writes letters or words backwards.  
Preschoolers are still getting oriented.
4. Prefers information to storybooks. Some children do!

### **How you can help...**

- Encourage your children to join in while you read. Pause to let them fill in a rhyming word or repeating line: "I'll huff and I'll puff..."
- Ask open-ended questions, such as, "What do you think is going to happen next?" or "Why do you think he did that?"
- Move your finger under the words as you read aloud. This helps preschoolers connect printed words to spoken words.
- Begin teaching the letters of the alphabet, starting with the ones in your child's own name. Make letter-learning fun with markers, magnets, glue and glitter.

### **Book shelf:**

- Concept books, such as counting books and A-B-C books
- "Pattern books" with rhymes and repetition
- Simple stories with predictable plots
- Information picture books



# November Story Hours

For families with children 3,4 and 5 years old



## **Mrs. McNosh and the Great Big Squash** by Sarah Weeks

Who knew one squash could cause so much trouble? Join us for story time, squash activities and a snack. Each family attending will receive a copy of the book to take home.

**Mrs. McNosh...** will be held in two locations. Please attend the activity that best fits your schedule.

**Date:** Thursday, November 8  
**Time:** 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** P.A.T. Lending Library  
Merrill School - Rock Falls

**Date:** Friday, November 9  
**Time:** 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
**Place:** Preschool Room  
Prophetstown Elementary  
Hosted by Debbie Klein

## **Where Is My Friend?**

by Marcus Pfister

The hedgehog in our story meets pin cushions, cacti, and finally a friend. Join us for story, activity, and snack time. Each family attending will receive a copy of the book to take home.

**Where Is My Friend?** will be held in three locations. Please attend the activity that best fits your schedule.

**Date:** Friday, November 16  
**Time:** 10 - 11 a.m.  
**Place:** Preschool Room  
Tampico Elementary

**Date:** Friday, November 16  
**Time:** 1 - 2 p.m.  
**Place:** P.A.T. Lending Library - Rm 18  
Wallace Ed. Center - Sterling

**Date:** Monday, November 19  
**Time:** 6 - 7 p.m.  
**Place:** Odell Public Library  
Morrison  
Hosted by Debbie Klein

# November Story Hours

These activities are designed for children under age four and their parents, but older children are always welcome.

## *"Napping House"*

**Date:** Friday, November 9

**Time:** 10 - 11 a.m.

**Place:** P.A.T. Lending Library  
Wallace Education Center  
Sterling

Join us for story, play, and snack time. Each family attending will receive a book to take home.

Hosted by Sue Austin and Mary Etnyre

## *Story Time at the Library*

**Date:** Thursday, November 15

**Time:** 11 a.m. - 12 noon

**Place:** Rock Falls Public Library

Join us for story, play, and snack time. Each family attending will receive a book to take home.

Hosted by Linda Berentes, Sandy Davis, and Laura Woodfall

## *"Where Is My Friend?"*

**Date:** Friday, November 16

**Time:** 10 - 11 a.m.

**Place:** Preschool Room  
Tampico Elementary

and

**Date:** Monday, November 19

**Time:** 6 - 7p.m.

**Place:** Odell Public Library  
Morrison

The hedgehog in our story meets pin cushions, cacti and finally a friend. Laura is planning activities for the younger children while Debbie plans for the older ones. Each family attending will receive a book to take home.

## *Story Time at the Library*

**Date:** Tuesday, November 27



**Time:** 7 - 8 p.m.

**Place:** Erie Public Library

Join us for story, play, and snack time. The librarian will read several of her favorite Christmas books. Kathy is planning activities for the younger children while Debbie plans for the older ones. Each family attending will receive a book to take home.

# Whiteside County Parents As Teachers

## November Lending Library

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fr
<p><b>Erie</b> The toy lending library is in the preschool room, which is now located in the old high school annex. Times you may visit are listed below.</p>	<p><b>Morrison</b> A toy lending library is available in Morrison. Please ask Laura about its location and when you may use it.</p>	<p><b>Prophetstown</b> The toy lending library is located in the Pre-school Room. You may use it any school day before or after classes or when you attend an activity.</p>	<p><b>Tampico</b> The toy lending library is located in the Pre-school Room. You may use it any school day before or after classes or when you attend an activity.</p>	<p><b>1</b> Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sue  Wallace library/center 3:30-5:30 p.m./Janie</p>	
<p><b>4</b> </p>	<p><b>5</b> Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>6</b> Erie library 9-10 a.m.  Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Linda</p>	<p><b>7</b> Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>8</b> Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sue</p>	
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>13</b> Erie library 9-10 a.m.  Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Laura</p>	<p><b>14</b> Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>15</b> Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Mary</p>	
<p><b>18</b> </p>	<p><b>19</b> Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>20</b> Erie library 9-10 a.m.  Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Laura</p>	<p><b>21</b> Library Closed</p>	<p><b>22</b> Thanksgiving  Library Closed</p>	
<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>27</b> Erie library 9-10 a.m.  Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sandy</p>	<p><b>28</b> Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>29</b> Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Mary</p>	



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