



FRIENDS FEATURES

Issue Sixty-Seven

Lititz Public Library

Spring 2017

For the Love of Literacy ~ Reading With Your Child

Simple Activities Will Help Build Reading Skills

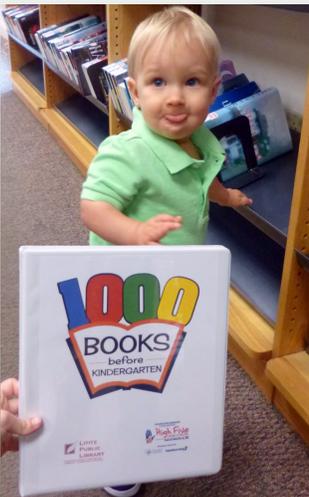
Children must learn to read before they can read to learn. How can parents help their children become readers? The Learning First Alliance, a group of education organizations, suggests that parents help in these ways:



- Read at bedtime. From the time your children are very young, get in the habit of reading aloud at bedtime. If you haven't started this tradition, it's not too late to begin.
- Enjoy the library together. Take your child to the public library regularly. Together, explore all the resources available. Spend some time looking at children's biographies one week. On your next visit, see what books are available on outer space..or dolphins...or ancient Egypt.
- Encourage your children to write. Look for ways to motivate children to write. Leave a note on the refrigerator and ask your child to write back. Buy your child a journal.

- Play rhyming games. Young children learn a lot as they think about rhyming words. They focus on the sounds inside words and start to hear the sounds that letters make. Choose a word, and have a contest to see who can think of the greatest number of rhyming words.

Remember - practice makes perfect. Young readers need lots of practice to polish their skills. Keep reading material around your house. Have your child read the recipes when you cook. And be sure you have a regular reading time every day.



Even at a young age,
I have what it takes to
to complete

1000 BOOKS
Before Kindergarten!

We bet that this little guy is not going to stop at 1000 books as he has lots of time left. One of our young readers, Elizabeth Motz, kept going and read 3000 books by the time she entered kindergarten!

STEM Maker Pass is Now Available!

The Library System of Lancaster County and make717 have joined forces to create a new STEM Maker Pass Program for all the member libraries. With these passes, library patrons can access the make717 Innovation Center, a well-equipped facility where independent project-based learning can happen. With the current emphasis on STEM (STEM: Science, Technology, Electronics and Math) learning, this initiative will be a valuable resource for the public to increase skill in those areas.



You can take a tour and learn about make717 Innovation Center, a dedicated makerspace. All visitors to make717 need to attend an "Information Session." These information sessions allow time to walk through the makerspace to see the equipment and hear about some of the software. A STEM Maker Pass is not needed to attend an information session. Go to <http://www.make717.org> and click on the "Events" tab for the calendar. Select the "Information Session" you want to attend and register for it. You will receive an email confirmation.

After you've attended an "Information Session," use the STEM Maker Pass to enter make717 and register for and attend Equipment Orientations, Workshops, and access make717 Innovation Center software.

Show Your Child Ways to Become A Scientific Thinker

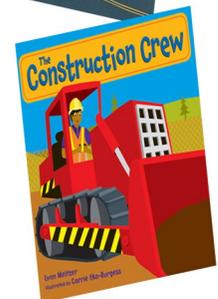
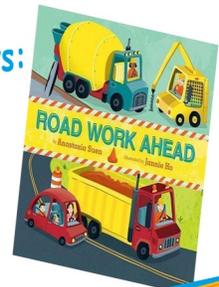
You don't have to be a rocket scientist to teach your child science. Just do simple things like these:

- Encourage your child to be a "collector." Help them organize objects like seeds, rocks, shells and bottle caps.
- Encourage investigation. Give your child a magnifying glass. Ask them, "What do you see?" "What's similar and what's different?"
- Talk about science that happens in your home. For instance, which cereals get soggy? Why do foods in the refrigerator get moldy? Why do some plants need more water than others?
- Show an interest in science yourself. Predict the weather. Observe the stars. Weigh snow. Mix paints.
- Nurture curiosity. Ask your child questions like, "Why do you think....?" "What might happen if.....?" and "How can we find out.....?"
- Go to the library. Check out books and videos on different science topics.



Bob the Builder says:

Reading
is a
building
tool
for
success!





"A Book That Shaped Me"

The Library of Congress National Book Festival Summer Writing Contest

"A Book That Shaped Me" Summer Writing Contest encourages rising 5th & 6th graders to reflect on books that have made a personal impact on their lives. The contest is administered through local public library systems in the Mid-Atlantic region, and top winners are honored at the Library of Congress National Book Festival.

Brenna Pipkin, a Lititz resident and Lititz Public Library patron, entered the contest last summer as an eleven-year-old about to start sixth grade at Lititz Elementary School. She wrote about how Sharon Drapers book, *Out of My Mind*, shaped her. She was a finalist from the state of Pennsylvania and attended the awards ceremony in Washington D.C.



As a naturally empathetic person, reading this book reminded me once again how important it is to practice empathy toward those who are different. One of Melody's many challenges was watching her little sister, Penny, do everything that Melody could not do. "by the time she was one year old, Penny could walk...That was something I'd never get to try...It sorta sucks to watch a baby do what you wish you could do." As I read these words, I sensed a mix of emotions from Melody. She was proud of Penny's abilities and accomplishments, but also jealous of the things that she would never be able to do herself. I imagine she may have felt a mix of happiness and sadness, and even bitterness and anger. It makes sense that someone in her situation would feel all of these things, and I can empathize with her. To have empathy means to understand and share other people's feelings, which is something this book helped me to do. When we exercise empathy, it is easier to show kindness and compassion. Melody's story reminds me of something my mom once shared with me: "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."

"It was awesome to be able to travel to Washington, D.C. for the book festival and awards ceremony. I enjoyed hearing some of the other essays and receiving my \$50 gift card. My favorite part was being able to meet the new Librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden, and take a photo with her." Brenna Pipkin

This story also reminded me to be an advocate and friend to those who are different. In the book, Melody was finally allowed to visit a regular class. When she got there, kids stared or cringed at her, with the exception of a sweet girl named Rose. She smiled at Melody, and when some people said mean things about her, Rose defended her and stood up for her. They became best friends and stuck together through hard times. This is the kind of person I want to be. Now, whenever I get the chance, I stand up for what is right, no matter what people

might say. For example, one day at lunch, kids at my table were making fun of the kids in the special needs group. I stood up for what was right and asked them to stop. We can all be people who defend and include others.

As you can see, *Out of My Mind* is a book that shaped me. It encouraged me to challenge my assumptions about others, exercise empathy, and be a friend to those who are different. I believe that if we all tried to do these things more often, the world would be a better place. For that reason, I would highly recommend this book to others—it might just change you, too!



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The Lititz Public Library Board
 of Trustees meets on the first
 Monday evening of each
 month at 7 p.m.



**Friends of the
 Lititz Public Library
 Spring Book Sale**

Thursday, March 2 and Friday, March 3
 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 4
 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Buck-A-Bag starts at 1 p.m.)



Looking Ahead: We are Making it Happen!

Look for more STEM/STEAM activities at the Lititz Public Library in the near future. Our Children's Librarian, Karen Payonk, recently attended a workshop where she received not only some good ideas about science programming, but also some cool materials that she plans to incorporate into fun, hands-on activities. And it's well-timed that this year's Summer Reading Program theme is Build a Better World which will focus on the science of building, construction, architecture and making of all kinds!

**BUILD A
 BETTER
 WORLD™**

