



# Wings

A Weekly Newsletter for Families

April: Week 2  
Reading/Literacy

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.” - Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

## Free Websites for Budding Readers

There’s nothing quite like reading a book together to strengthen the connection between you and your child. And browsing books with kids at a bookstore or library is the fun, surefire way to find out what kinds of books they’re interested in.

There are also lots of free resources on the internet for readers of all ages – starting with kids who are just learning the alphabet. Here’s are a few free reading websites to get you and your child started with games, free book downloads and other reading resources:

<http://www.bookadventure.com/Home.aspx>  
<http://www.readingresource.net/websitesforkids.html>  
<http://www.poetry4kids.com>  
<http://www.starfall.com>  
<https://freekidsbooks.org>  
<http://magicblox.com>  
<https://www.storyjumper.com/book/search>

Check out these websites where the books are read aloud:

<http://www.storylineonline.net>  
<http://www.indypl.org/readytoread/?p=6150>  
<http://www.justbooksreadaloud.com>  
<http://www.storynory.com>

Some of these websites let you search for books by age group, grade or reading level – making it even easier to find the perfect reading material for your child.

## •• INFANT Inspiration

*Learning to Focus* – Young babies may not know what the pictures in a book mean, but they can focus on them – especially faces, bright colors and contrasting patterns. Between 4 and 6 months, babies may begin to show more interest in books, like grabbing, holding and even chewing them. Between 6 and 12 months, babies start understanding that pictures represent objects.

## •• TODDLER Tales

*Encourage Independence* – Offer three or books to choose from – and don’t be surprised if your child picks the same book over and over again. Praise your child’s selection, let them help you turn the pages and ask for help as you find things on a page. Read slowly. When you come to a repeating phrase or rhyme, pause and let your child finish the sentence.



## •• PRESCHOOL Power

*Getting Ready to Read* – Reading aloud to your preschooler prepares them to learn to read. Your child is learning basic concepts – that text is words written down, letters in a specific order form a word and there are spaces between words. Choose lots of different books to build vocabulary, knowledge about different subjects and understanding of story structure and characters.

