



# At Home with Books



FAMILY READING PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

## Babies Belong at the Library: a Collaboration Between All Tompkins County Public Libraries and Family Reading Partnership *by Shawnee Emmett*

**B**abies belong at the library. That's the motto behind a collective initiative launched in April that provides every baby in the county with their own special, colorful library card.

"Babies Belong at the Library" is an invitation to families to "come, stay, and play" at any of Tompkins County's six public libraries.

"The heart of a culture of literacy in any community is the public library," says Brigid Hubberman, Family Reading Partnership's executive director.

"Public libraries are such a wonderful place to surround families with books and to connect families with each other," she says, adding, "We intentionally used the word 'belong' in the title. We need to feel we belong when we have a baby... It's a basic human need to know that you belong."

It also encourages families to make their local library one of the first places they visit with their new baby.

"If this habit begins early, we believe that families will continue to enjoy the resources and support offered by libraries throughout their child's life," Hubberman says.

The initiative is a collaboration between Family Reading Partnership and all six Tompkins County public libraries, each of which has or plans to have regular baby and toddler story times followed by playtime.

"Our libraries today are not the quiet libraries of the past; they're really a community center," says Sarah Glogowski, head of youth services at Tompkins County Public Library. "We're here for everyone and that includes babies."

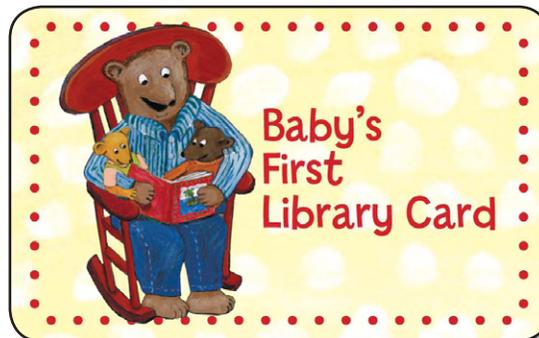
Playtime at the library combines books, singing, reading, movement, and socializing, says Glogowski, all crucial components for building a foundation for lifelong learning.

The idea to give every baby in Tompkins County a library card grew out of Family Reading Partnership's

community-wide call to action, *Every Baby! Every Day! Talk. Sing. Read. Play.* launched last year. The goal of the campaign is to ensure all children born in Tompkins County are surrounded by words, songs, and stories right from the start.

*"Our libraries today are not the quiet libraries of the past; they're really community centers."*

*~Sarah Glogowski, Tompkins County Public Library Youth Services*



*Every baby born at Cayuga Medical Center will receive a library card, encouraging parents to make the library a family destination as soon as baby is born.*

Babies born at Cayuga Medical Center will receive the library card in a red bag that says, "Love Me; Feed Me; Read to Me; Take Me to the Library!" The bag is part of Family Reading Partnership's *Books*

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"If you dream alone it stays a dream; if you dream together it can become reality."

No truer words could be written for Family Reading Partnership! Our powerful shared dreams for connecting children and families with books pull us forward in a compelling way and strengthen our resolve to work together to make them a reality.

*Babies Belong at the Library*, which you will read about in the cover story, is very much a shared and growing dream, created together with our close friends, admired colleagues, and wonderful partners, the public librarians of Tompkins County.

Knowing "libraries change lives" (including my own), it has always been our intent that every book we give away serves as an appetizer for the rich bounty of books families can find at the public library.

It is this strong commitment that has made us dream about what it would take to have the public library be one of the first places families go with their new babies—and never stop. It is tremendously exciting to have come together with all Tompkins County public librarians to see that dream come true in a powerful and practical way through *Babies Belong at the Library*.

In doing so, we are creating more than a program. We are partnering together to change systems. It is the greatest lasting impact we can have! There is no doubt that in addition to being wonderfully successful in this community, *Babies Belong at the Library* will soon serve as a powerful national model for other library/community partnerships.



Brigid Hubberman, FRP executive director

## At Home with Books Spring 2015

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### Family Reading Partnership Programs

#### Every Baby! Every Day!

Talk. Sing. Read. Play.

Our community-wide campaign encourages everyone to give babies an abundance of words.

#### Read-Along Love Songs for Baby

Income eligible families receive a bag of 5 board books for baby with a CD of the books being read and sung.



#### Books Before Birth & Books at Birth

Every expectant family receives a book at a prenatal visit and another book from the hospital when their baby is born.



#### Books to Grow On

Doctors give young families a new book at eight well visits with a prescription to "read to their children 20 minutes a day."



#### Love Those Letters!



Pre-K and kindergarten students receive a book, DVD, and CD set of alphabet fun to use at home that is also used in classrooms.

#### Read-Along Songs

A set of 6 books and CD of the books being both read and sung are given to young children as a path to literacy through a new door.



#### Welcome to School Book

Kindergartners receive a new book at registration as a gift from their new school.



#### Kids' Book Fest



The community comes together to celebrate children's books at this fun, annual event.

#### Bright Red Bookshelf

Gently used books, collected and placed on red shelves, are free for families to select and own.



#### Traveling Books

Volunteers read to children at child care centers and homes and leave crates of books to be enjoyed.



#### Give the Gift of Family Reading



Low-income families choose new books at the holidays to give as gifts to their children.

#### "Read to Me" Banners & Calendars



Reading together images are made into large banners and calendars to spread the message Read to Me!

**Our Mission: To create a culture of literacy in which all children have early, frequent, and pleasurable experiences with books, as part of everyday family life, right from the start.**

## Babies at Library

continued from page 1

at Birth program and has a copy of the book, “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” by Eric Carle, as a special gift to the new baby and family. The library cards will also be available for families to pick up at their local library or through many community organizations that work with families. The card can be easily activated at any of the six public libraries in Tompkins County.

“Reading to your baby every day not only promotes early language development but carves out a special time for bonding between baby and their family or caregiver,” says Elizabeth Stilwell, early childhood specialist with Family Reading Partnership.

“Babies recognize early on that books are a place and time for quiet shared joy, love, and connection,” says Stilwell. “Babies are learning all the time from every interaction and reading is an activity that engages them with language and one-to-one interaction,” she says adding: “When you read a book and say, ‘Oh see the puppy?’ and the baby looks at you and points at the puppy and makes the connection to a real puppy, that’s the kind of engagement that just lights up the baby’s brain and that’s what we want to see happening in the first year.”

*“Reading to your baby every day not only promotes early language development but carves out a special time for bonding between baby and their family or caregiver.”*

~Elizabeth Stilwell, early childhood specialist

To help parents and caregivers choose the right book for their two-month-old or nine-month-old, for example, Family Reading Partnership developed a list of “50 Books for Baby’s First Year,” which is included with the library card. The list of board books has stories with rhymes, word plays, colorful pictures, song, and movement. The collection is available at all six public libraries.

Additionally, in special recognition of welcoming babies and supporting their families, all six public libraries have adopted a policy that there will be no

late fines on board books.

Each library, too, encourages families to stay and read with their baby by providing cozy reading areas, some replete with rocking chairs and changing tables.

“It’s so important that families know that babies are welcome at the library,” says Annette Birdsall, director of the Ulysses Philomathic Library in Trumansburg. “We know they’ll cry, that they have diaper needs. We want to make sure that this is the place for them to begin their journey toward a love of books.”

*Shawnee Emmett is a writer and teacher and lives with her husband and one-year-old daughter in Ithaca.*

*Babies born at Cayuga Medical Center are welcomed with the the gift of a canvas book bag, baby library card, and a new board book to take home, with ideas for the family about how to share books and words with their baby every day.*

Babies Belong  
at the  
Library!  
Come • Stay • Play!



*“Lola at the Library,” by Anna McQuinn, will soon be included in the book bag given to all newborns at Cayuga Medical Center, thanks to Tompkins County Public Library, with funding from the Michael Kummer Children’s Book Fund.*

# Words of Love: a Community-Wide Initiative by Melissa Perry

This February, the entire community—and beyond—was invited to take part in Family Reading Partnership’s newest initiative, *Words of Love*! In the form of a lovely, interactive bookmark, *Words of Love* encourages families, and gives them the tools to surround their children with loving words each and every day of the year.

Words are transformative in how a child learns, grows, and gains self-esteem, influencing long-term success. Whether these words are spoken, read, or written as a love note, they relay the message to children that they are important, they are cared for, and they are loved.

Staying true to Family Reading Partnership’s guiding principles, *Words of Love* aims to reach families at home and support them in giving quality, loving words to their children as a natural part of their everyday lives, right from the start. Conversation and vocabulary are crucial to a child’s development. The words children hear heavily influence how they view themselves, the world, and their place in it. It’s essential for children to hear an abundance of words in order to develop language, giving them the ability to communicate their thoughts, ideas, and feelings.

Children growing up in poverty hear 30 million fewer words by age four than their more affluent counterparts.<sup>1</sup> This leaves an achievement gap that only widens as children age, hindering them from reaching their fullest potential. Furthermore, recent research demonstrates that the

quality of the communication between children and their parents and caregivers is as important as the number of words a child hears.<sup>2</sup> By simply giving children an abundance of rich, loving words through song, read-aloud, and conversation, we can begin to close

this preventable achievement gap.

Over 6,000 copies of the *Words of Love* bookmark were distributed throughout Tompkins County to kindergarten, Pre-K, and Head Start/Early Head Start families. They were also given to childcare centers, libraries, and many agencies that work with families in our community. The response to *Words of Love* was overwhelming! With one look at the bookmark and its practical suggestions, several agencies requested more to be delivered right away. So many requests for bookmarks came in response to media that a second printing was in order! It is so heart-warming to know that our community values the love and care of our children through the gift of loving words.

The suggestions on the bookmark are not just for families to use at home, however. Anyone, in any setting, can give children an abundance of loving words. Family Reading Partnership invites everyone to join us in giving all children the words they need to succeed.

If you would like to give *Words of Love* bookmarks to the families that you serve, or if you’d like more information, please contact [melissa@familyreading.org](mailto:melissa@familyreading.org), or visit our website at [www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org) to print your own.

<sup>1</sup> Hart, B., & Risley, T. (1995). *Meaningful differences in the everyday experiences of young children*. Baltimore: Brookes.

<sup>2</sup> Quenqua, Douglas. “Quality of Words, Not Quantity, Is Crucial to Language Skills, Study Finds.” *NYTimes.com*, October 16, 2014.

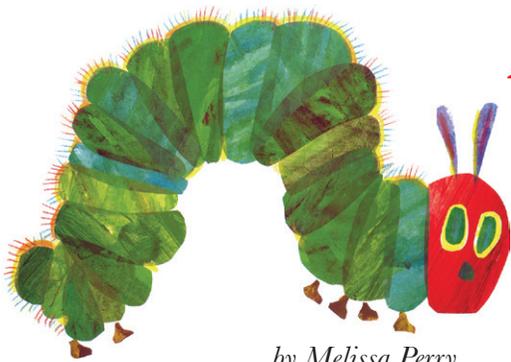
 Surround your children with words of love every day of the year!

1. I am so happy you are \_\_\_\_\_ (my son/ my daughter/ part of our family)! 
2. I love to watch you \_\_\_\_\_ (play, draw, hear you sing, see you run, etc.)
3. There is no one like you in the whole world!
4. You are such a wonderful you!
5. You are my sunshine, my only sunshine; you make me happy when skies are gray.
6. I adore you! 
7. You are so smart in so many ways. 
8. It is okay to make mistakes.
9. I know you can do it! You did it! I love how you did that!
10. Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_ (being wonderful, being kind, being so funny, brightening up my day).
11. I love being with you. 
12. I love you more and more every day.
13. You are growing in so many wonderful ways.
14. I feel so lucky to have you in my life.
15. I love you to the moon and back, more than the billions of stars, and still even more!
16. I will always be here for you.
17. I missed you. 
18. Everything is going to be okay.
19. You make me smile.
20. I will always love you!

These loving words are brought to you by:  
  
Family Reading Partnership  
[www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org)

Post this on your refrigerator to use all year long!

The Words of Love initiative gives everyone in our community the words to say to children to foster healthy self-esteem. Download a bookmark at [www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org)



by Melissa Perry

## Books at Birth and “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” Celebrate 20 Years!

2015 marks a milestone celebration for Family Reading Partnership: 20 years of giving “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” to every new baby born in Tompkins County through the *Books at Birth* program, with support from Tompkins Trust Company.

In 1995, Family Reading Partnership’s executive director, Brigid Hubberman, envisioned welcoming each new baby born in our community with a book, a gift that would also give families the inspiration and knowledge that it’s never too early to start reading to babies. Now, 20 years later, over 18,000 babies have received “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” a book even author Eric Carle himself sees fit for the cause by saying, “Ultimately, it is a story about hope; that every living thing will grow up, be beautiful, and unfold its talents.” A perfect fit.

In honor of this very special milestone, and in appreciation of the community’s continued support for *Books at Birth*, Family Reading Partnership invites everyone to several fun-filled community events to celebrate.

To kick off the festivities, the Very Hungry Caterpillar himself will be making a **grand reappearance at the Ithaca Festival Parade on May 28th!** We invite friends of Family Reading Partnership and fans of Eric Carle to walk with us!

**On June 6th, please join**

**us for a free family party** at the Ithaca Children’s Garden, offering activities that will bring the story of “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” to life. Birthday cupcakes, anyone?

The grand finale will be a very **special performance on November 14th at our annual Kids’ Book Fest.** It will be a show you won’t want to miss!

Special thanks go to Tompkins Trust Company and Cayuga Medical Center, two community partners who have helped place “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” into the homes and hearts of families for 20 incredible years.

Tompkins Trust Company believed in Hubberman’s vision right from the start. When she first approached the Trust Company for sponsorship, they were immediately drawn to the idea and were pleased to invest in the future of our community. Now, thanks to 20 years of Tompkins Trust Company’s continuous sponsorship, a generation of children own and love “The Very Hungry Caterpillar.”

Cayuga Medical Center has also been a critical partner in this vision becoming reality. For 20 years the Maternal Health Nurses have presented each family who gives birth

*Do you remember receiving “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” when your child was born at Cayuga Medical Center? Do you have pictures or fond memories to share? Perhaps you were among the first to receive “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and now you’ve had a child of your own who has received a copy! We would love to hear your stories and see your photos! Please connect with [melissa@familyreading.org](mailto:melissa@familyreading.org) or share on our Facebook page!*

at Cayuga Medical with their *Books at Birth*, coupled with encouragement to read to their baby every day—right from the start! Thanks to these dedicated partners, each and every family has received “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” through a trusted relationship at a very special time, making the gift more personal and meaningful. The response from families has always been one of “overwhelming surprise and pleasure with great appreciation,” the nurses say.

Looking back on 20 years of *Books at Birth*, it is incredible to think that it all started with a dream to create a culture of literacy in our community, one book and one family at a time. Family Reading Partnership has, over the years, transformed into a highly respected authority on childhood literacy with 12 distinct programs and initiatives that have touched and changed the lives of tens of thousands of children and families. With such a truly remarkable accomplishment, one may say that Family Reading Partnership is growing up and unfolding its talents.



# Babies Belong at the Library!

... at ALL public libraries  
in Tompkins County

All public libraries of Tompkins County and Family Reading Partnership are delighted that beginning the week of April 12th, Baby's First Library Card will be distributed to new babies and their families as part of *Babies Belong at the Library*, a Tompkins County-wide invitation to connect babies and their families to the many resources available at their local library. This shared initiative is a wonderful step toward FRP's community-wide call to action: *Every Baby! Every Day! Talk. Sing. Read. Play.*



Newfield Public Library  
[www.newfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://www.newfieldpubliclibrary.org)



Ulysses Philomathic Library • [www.trumansburglibrary.org](http://www.trumansburglibrary.org)



Tompkins County Public Library • [www.tcpl.org](http://www.tcpl.org)



Southworth Library, Dryden • [www.southworthlibrary.org](http://www.southworthlibrary.org)





Lansing Community Library • [www.lansinglibrary.org](http://www.lansinglibrary.org)

Welcoming babies to our public libraries is a testament to our shared belief that when it comes to surrounding babies with an abundance of words and books, it's never too early to start, and the benefits last a lifetime!



This baby feels very comfortable at the library!



Babies Belong at the Library collaboration group and Fifty Books for Baby's First Year

Celebrating this exciting collaboration and their new collection of Fifty Books for Baby's First Year, donated to each library by the Family Reading Partnership, are (left to right):

**Sara Knobel**, Groton Public Library

**Susie Gutenberger**, Lansing Community Library

**Brigid Hubberman**, Family Reading Partnership

**Annette Birdsall**, Ulysses Philomathic Library  
(Trumansburg)

**Diane Pamel**, Southworth Library (Dryden)

**Tammy Kubineck**, Newfield Public Library

**Jennifer Schlossberg**, Tompkins County Public Library

**Elizabeth Stilwell**, Family Reading Partnership

**Sarah Glogowski**, Tompkins County Public Library  
(not pictured)



Groton Public Library • [www.grotonpubliclibrary.net](http://www.grotonpubliclibrary.net)



Baby playtime at the library includes hands-on fun!

# “Read to Me!” Banners Impress Around the World!

Dear Brigid!

I write to you from Borlänge, Sweden. I want to share an experience from last summer with you.

My husband and I visited our daughter who has been working at Cornell University in Ithaca, for 12 months. We had a fantastic time in Ithaca. We even rented a car and drove around in New York State. Of course we visited Niagara Falls and New York City, but what really got me going was what I saw on some walls in Ithaca.

It was the great Read to Me! banners that told of the need to read and reread for toddlers. I could not help but take pictures of all the banners I saw. And since I'm a teacher, I could not help but to show the photos to my colleagues when I came back to school. They thought they were wonderful and we put them in our library. Many students asked what they meant, if they couldn't read English.

When our daughter came home from the US we got a card that said she had donated money to Family Reading Partnership in honor of us. We could not have received a better gift.

I wish you luck in your continued work with children, books and families.

Cordial greetings, Birgit Gustafsson  
Borlänge, Sweden



*Birgit Gustafsson in her school library in Sweden with the photo of a Read to Me! banner from Ithaca, NY!*

## Volunteer Spotlight: Susan Koon

*Susan Koon is the very definition of a long-time volunteer, having given her time to Family Reading Partnership for 20 years! We recently sat down with Susan to learn why she encourages others to join her in volunteering.*

**Q: Susan, Family Reading Partnership has been lucky to have you as a volunteer for many years. How did you first become involved?**

Twenty years ago when I retired from teaching kindergarten and moved to Ithaca, I answered a piece in the *Ithaca Journal* that Joan Ormondroyd wrote about volunteering for *Traveling Books* through RSVP and she assigned me to Jody Boronkay's Evergreen Nursery School. And I lived happily ever after!

**Q: Tell us a little about yourself.**

I am 76 years old, born and raised in rural upstate New York (town of Canadice, Ontario County); went to Cornell and Syracuse; taught school in many places for many years. My two children are both living in Virginia (suburban DC) and I have two teenage granddaughters. Follow me on Twitter @SusanLuther2.

**Q: Do you have a favorite children's book?**

If I were to be marooned on a desert island with a group of children and there was only one book, I'd hope it was Jules Feiffer's "Bark, George." That said, I never met a children's book I didn't like.

**Q: Do you have any special reading traditions in your family?**

Read, read, read.

**Q: Which Family Reading Partnership programs and events have you been involved with? Can you describe what you do as a volunteer?**

I now read to four groups with *Traveling Books*: Corner of the Sky, East Ithaca Pre-School, South Hill Tots, and Aspen Grove. Every two weeks I carry in a crate of 20 picture books, read to the children from a few, and leave the crate with them.

I also manage two *Bright Red Bookshelves*, at the county Human Services Building lobby and in the offices of Attorneys for Children. I stock the shelves with books supplied by Family Reading Partnership, gently used and ready for re-use, and keep the shelves tidy. This means going twice a week to the very busy Human Services site, and every two weeks to the Attorneys. The staff is always glad to see me and the books make a cheerful display.

Sometimes there is a one-time call for volunteers at the FRP headquarters, processing books or other materials for a special project. This is always clean, neat work and the company is good.

My other contribution is my North Cayuga Street front porch, handy as a drop-off site between Danby and other far-flung volunteers.

**Q: What does volunteering with Family Reading Partnership mean to you?**

The volunteering I do is perfect for



me, since 4-year-olds and I have the same attention span—14 minutes. They greet me like a rock star, "Here she comes! She's here!" and when I'm ready to leave they are reaching for books as if for jewels!

**Q: If you were to give words of encouragement to inspire new volunteers, what would you share with them?**

I would urge anyone who believes as I do that there is no higher calling than reading to children, or providing books for them and their families to read, to volunteer at Family Reading Partnership in whatever capacity you can. These are good people, doing good work.

**Thank you, Susan, for all the ways you have been involved with Family Reading Partnership through the years! You have helped bring the joys of reading to so many children and families, and we are grateful!**

*If you're interested in a fulfilling and joyful volunteer experience like Susan's, please contact Betsy McKean, FRP administrative assistant, at [office@familyreading.org](mailto:office@familyreading.org), or visit [www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org) to learn more.*

## Sharing Family Inspiration: Lorena Garmezy and Kevin Murphy

by Liz Kinast

**F**or Lorena Garmezy and Kevin Murphy, supporting Family Reading Partnership is a way to express a belief that every child and every family deserve the opportunity to explore the many worlds that books can open. “I will be eternally grateful to my mother, Alice Garmezy, for sharing her love of reading with me at an early age and for taking the time to talk, sing, read, and play every day,” shares Lorena. “The library was always a place where I felt welcomed and checking out a new batch of books every week was exciting.”

Lorena and Kevin believe in making books and reading aloud a natural part of every baby’s life and that it expands the potential for everyone. “Children are hard wired to explore and imagine—we just have to nourish and feed what already exists!” says Lorena. “The message that you can read together ANY time or place is powerful. Communities that truly embrace early literacy cannot help but be great places for growing up.”

“We first learned about Family Reading Partnership through my mother,” Lorena explains. “She shared her interest and enthusiasm when she and my dad first moved to Kendal. It was a very natural progression to first give gifts in her honor and then get excited about supporting the organization on our own.”

“Family Reading Partnership has done an incredible job giving families in Ithaca and the surrounding rural areas a wide range of resources,” Lorena continues. “My dream would be to see even more communities get



excited about promoting and supporting early literacy. I believe deeply that Family Reading Partnership’s wider mission and future is to serve as a mentor and model for what communities can do by working together for common goals. Just imagine the possibilities of living in a community, state, nation, or world that values and supports the potential of *Every Baby! Every Day!*”

Both Lorena and Kevin have tangible, lasting memories of reading with their families at a very young age, traditions that influenced their careers: Lorena as an elementary school librarian and Kevin as exhibit designer at the Strong National Museum of Play.

When asked what she loved most about those early trips to the library, Lorena says, “It is incredibly difficult to choose a favorite memory but the books by Robert McCloskey left a deep impression. Life imitated art when we later had the chance to pick blueberries off our own backyard bushes with a little tin pail—kuplink, kuplank, kuplunk!”

Kevin remembers his dad coming home from work each night with something new to read. “It was very exciting!” Kevin recalls. “In my career as exhibit designer at the Strong National Museum of Play, I had the tremendous opportunity to create many exhibits that focused on children’s literature. In designing each exhibit, I dug deep into childhood memories to recall the magic of the books I was first exposed

to decades ago. It reawakened the memories of virtually every illustration, every thrill of turning the pages on the laps of my young parents half a century earlier.”

The library was also a magical place for Kevin. “When I was growing up in the late 1950s and 1960s, the Geneva Free Library had a children’s library in their basement; entrance was through a special, tiny bright red door. To me, it was entering into a magical place, which partially influenced the designer bug in me in later life to create special places for children on a much grander scale.”

Lorena and Kevin continue to be inspired by their early family experiences to share the joy of books with all children through Family Reading Partnership. It’s a way to honor the lasting gifts their families have given them because, as Kevin says, “You are part of everything you see, and hear, and experience, and you carry all these ‘parts’ with you throughout your life. Childhood literature is the most valuable thing you can provide to your child other than love, and I see them as the same.”

## Family Reading Partnership Donation Form

Your contribution gives books and read-aloud support to families in our community. **Thank you!**



(Optional) My gift is in honor or in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a recognition card to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make any corrections to your name or address on the other side of this page.

\$50  \$100  \$500  \$1,000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

You can also give online!

Visit [www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org)

Please charge my Visa/MC for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card #             Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and donation to Family Reading Partnership, 54 Gunderman Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850

## Program Sponsorship Opportunities

### Read-Along Songs

**\$10,000** annually



This highly successful program needs new sponsorship for 2016. The set of six books and the accompanying CD of the books being read by Cal Walker and sung by John Simon is given to Pre-K and Head Start children each spring in a blue book bag. Books are used in the classrooms and at home, and John and Cal visit each school to perform.



### Books at Birth Book Bags

**\$3,500** annually

The family of every baby born at Cayuga Medical Center receives a book and a beautiful red cotton book bag with the FRP logo to use again and again—850 bags (one year supply). (see cover story)

### Read to Me Calendars

**\$3,500** annually

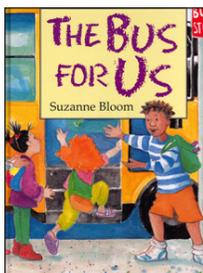
Sponsorship gives all Pre-K and Head Start students in Tompkins County a *Read to Me Calendar* to take home at the end of the year. The same calendar is given to each classroom to strengthen the school-home connection. The calendar features reading together illustrations, reading and family holidays, and read-aloud tips for families.



### Welcome to Pre-K Book

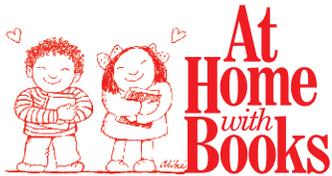
**\$3,500** annually

Children enrolled in Pre-K receive the book, “The Bus for Us,” by Suzanne Bloom as a gift from their classroom teacher when he or she meets the family at a summer home visit. Then when the children start school in the fall, they have the common experience of knowing the same book, easing the transition from home to school.

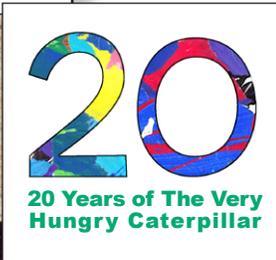


For further information about sponsoring a program in full or contributing in part, please contact:

Liz Kinast at [liz@familyreading.org](mailto:liz@familyreading.org) or 607-277-8602



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Join us for  
a year of  
celebrations!

(see page 5)

### Ithaca Festival Parade

Thursday, May 28

The Very Big Very Hungry Caterpillar will be marching!

### Party in the Garden

Saturday, June 6, 1-4 pm

Ithaca Children's Garden, Cass Park

### Kids' Book Fest 2015

Saturday, November 14, 10am-4pm

Boynton Middle School, Ithaca, NY

The first planning meeting will be held May 12 at Boynton Middle School. If interested, contact [suzie@familyreading.org](mailto:suzie@familyreading.org).



Sun. April 26, 12:21pm  
Cornell Plantations  
Register online at:  
<http://boiardifoundation.org>

### Receive our e-News?

Our quarterly electronic-newsletter features colorful photos, story briefs, news, volunteer spotlights, upcoming events, and activities to try at home—plus so much more—all delivered right to your email inbox!



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