



Book Report from *The BookStart Fund*

March 2018

“Getting babies and books together”

Vol. 11

For all of you who have contributed to the BookStart Fund, THANK YOU!

We are trying through this book program to help children who are infants to three years old be better prepared for kindergarten so that they will have a chance to excel in their later years in school.

The focus of this program is on families who cannot afford to buy their own books, and who have not experienced the joys, delights and the benefits of reading aloud with their children. We use all donations to the BookStart Fund to buy wonderful board books for our eight partner agencies to give to these families. All the agencies have as one of their main goals to help build stronger ties between young children and their parents.

We have received many positive stories from the trained agency staff who are working with moms, dads, grandparents and friends to introduce books to these youngsters. With help from BookStart, they help their clients discover the pleasures and benefits of read-aloud times.

In his recent State of the City Address, Mayor Henry cited BookStart as an early childhood program that should be supported. We agree!

To learn more, go to our website at BookStartFund.org, or talk with one of our BookStart Advisors. They are listed below.

BookStart Initiative Advisors

Madeleine Baker, CEO Early Childhood Alliance

Becky Hill, FWCS Board, retired

Lanissa Maggert, Early Childhood Alliance

Greta McKinney, MLK Montessori School Director

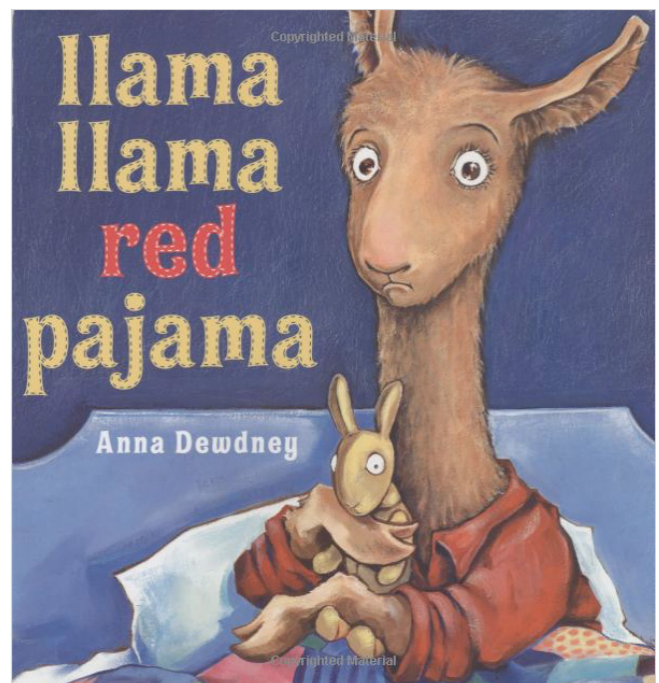
Odelet Nance, Vincennes University, Assistant Dean

John Peirce, Early Learning & Public Policy Consultant

Terri Jo Swim, IPFW, Early Childhood Education

Dee Szyndrowski, CEO of SCAN, Inc.

Dana Wichern, BookStart Co-Founder, FWCS, retired



One of our newest books

SCAN uses BookStart books to build bonds in healthy families

At a recent meeting at SCAN, Inc, we heard wonderful stories from some home visiting professionals about the impact of BookStart on their work with their client families:

“Most of the families we serve have no books in the home.” noted home visitor Valerie Wiggins. “One mother I provided with books had four children under age four. After I started giving her books, “she would use a book to quiet them all down at once. I was in awe!”

Stacey Dickerson told how getting books in Spanish and English allowed a grandma who speaks only Spanish to read to her grandchildren while their mom worked. Mom and older siblings then read to the younger children in English.

Books in Spanish do more than just allow some parents to read to their children. “They appreciate how it helps them bond with their children,” said home visitor Marisela Barrientos. “One family with five children had lots of videos in the home, and that is what they would do together.” Now they sit with the TV off and read together. “The mom loves how they are bonding as a family.”

BookStart Partner Agencies

Allen Co Superior Court: Bright Steps

Bright Point: Early Head Start Home Visits

Fort Wayne Urban League: Read & Rise

Healthier Moms & Babies

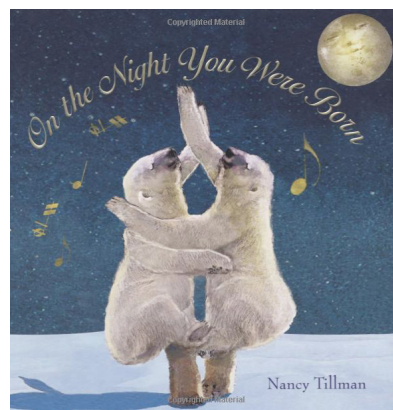
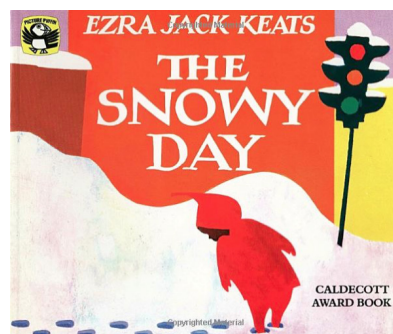
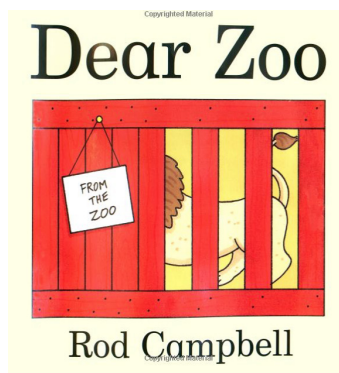
Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network

Rescue Mission: Charis House

SCAN: Healthy Families & other programs

Vincent Village

More of our recent books



How To Donate

Write a check to the
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
(Write BookStart on the memo line).

Mail it to CFGFW
555 East Wayne Street
Fort Wayne IN 46802

Or donate on line at cfgfw.org/donate/
Check “Other” and write “BookStart” as the fund name.

Questions? Ginny Clark: 625-3837