

# Loving Literacy In Action: Building A Culture of Family Reading



**Family and Community Engagement Professional District  
Learning Day  
Friday, February 13, 2026**



**Greatness Grows Here!**



Greatness Grows Here!

# A.M. District Learning Day Sign In

**Please scan the QR code to sign in  
for today's session.**

**Sign-in Link:**

**<https://forms.office.com/r/5ueTebDiWQ>**

A.M. - MSCS District Learning Day  
Sign In



# Welcome



**Martha Bailey**  
Family Engagement Specialist  
Katebond Elementary School



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# Team Connector



**Cynthia Bailey**  
Family Engagement Specialist  
Southwind High School



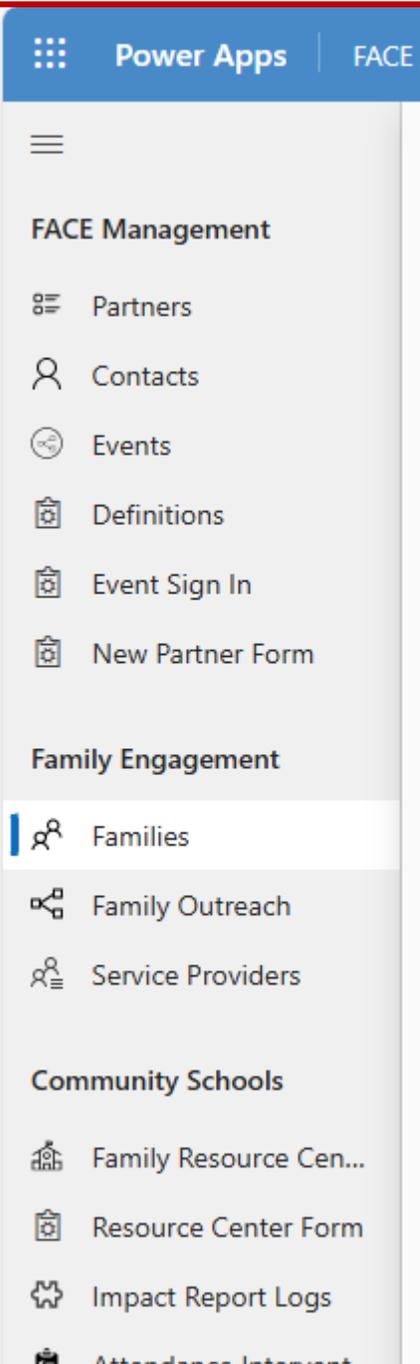
Greatness Grows Here!

# Grounding Our Work: Family Engagement Data & Attendance Initiative – Student Cohort

**Myrtle Winfield**  
Community School Manager



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# Family Engagement Data



Based on the documented entries in our CRM system, we are seeing an upward trend in services delivered. However, we recognize that not all activities are consistently tracked, and we are actively working to strengthen documentation practices to ensure complete reporting.



# Attendance Initiative – Student Cohort



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# LITERACY IN ACTION

## SIMPLE HOME LITERACY MOMENTS FOR FAMILIES



**Brinae Bartlett**

Family Engagement Specialist  
Germanshire Elementary School

[Sight Words Song](#) | [Gracie's Corner](#) | [Kids Songs + Nursery Rhymes](#)



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# 10-MINUTE BREAK



Greatness Grows Here!



**Greatness Grows Here!**

# Governor's Early Literacy Foundation K-3 Home Library

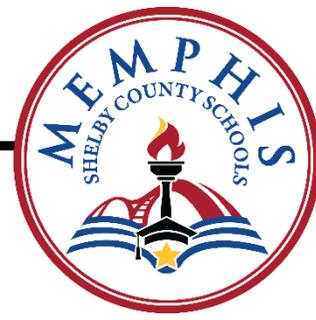
Presented By: Joyce Harrison, Literacy Manager  
Department of Curriculum & Instruction



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Welcome,  
Teachers

# Community Connector:



## Would You Rather...?

**WOULD YOU RATHER**

Be trapped inside a romance novel -OR- Be trapped inside a mystery novel?

Have the ending of a good book spoiled -OR- Never find out the ending?

Be transported to the setting of a historical fiction book -OR- Be transported to the setting of a science fiction book?



There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book.

-F. Serafini



**Do you agree with this statement?**

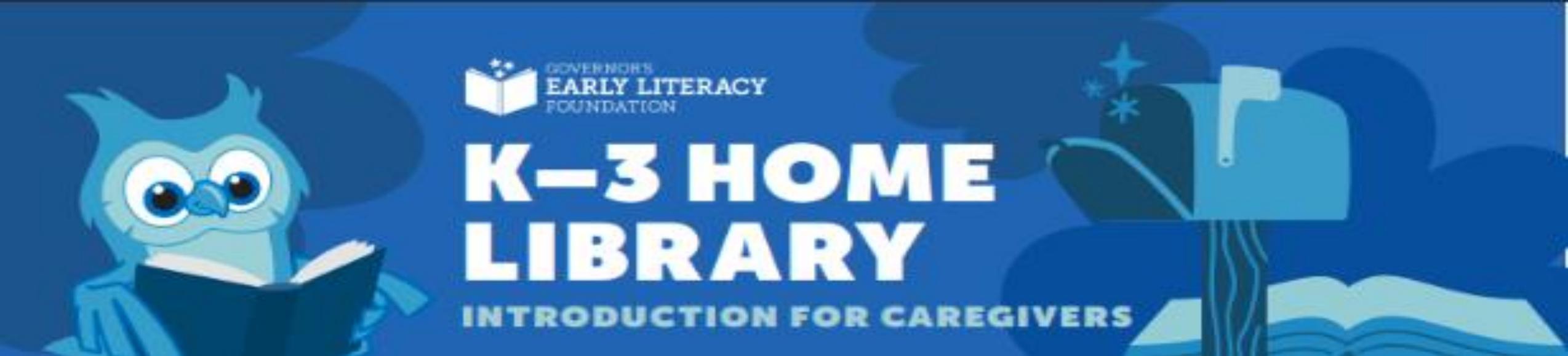
**1=I totally agree**

**2= I mostly agree**

**3=I do not agree**



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- ❑ MSCS is very excited to announce our continued partnership with the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (GELF) K-3 Home Library Program. **This is a FREE book delivery program for students and schools!** The purpose of the program is to provide students with books and resources to support learning in the home and help **combat 'Summer Slide,'** a term used to describe the learning loss that students can experience when out of school.
- ❑ In June, grade specific **mini libraries along with correlating activity cards will be shipped to our current K-2 students' homes.** Elementary schools will receive copies of the high-quality texts in the month of May to distribute to next year's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade teachers. Additionally, school librarians should receive copies of all grade level books.

# K-3 HOME LIBRARY

INTRODUCTION FOR CAREGIVERS

WHAT'S INSIDE:  
Sample Rising 3rd grade

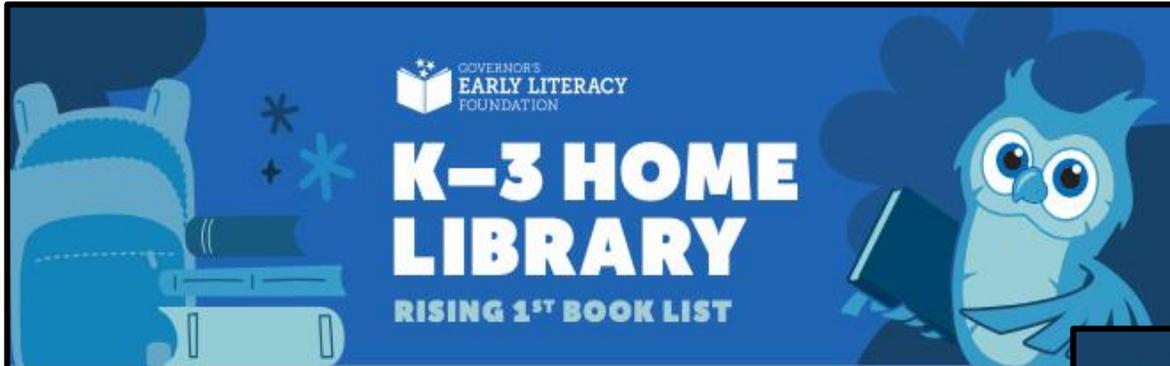
CAREGIVER  
LETTER



6 THINKSHEETS

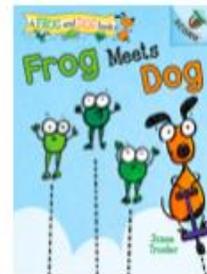
6 BOOKS

# Current Kindergarten (Rising 1<sup>st</sup>) Book List



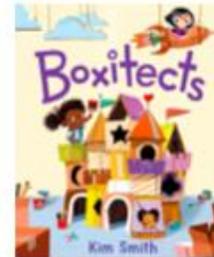
**Watch Me Throw the Ball**  
by Mo Willems

Piggie can't wait to show Gerald how to throw a ball. But when expectations get high, they discover that having fun matters more than getting it just right.



**Frog Meets Dog/ Rana Conoce Perro**  
by Jane Yolen

A curious frog wants to make a new friend, but the dog he meets isn't so sure. With a few silly mishaps, the two learn that friendship can come from unexpected places.



**Boxitects**  
by Kim Smith

Meg loves building amazing creations out of cardboard. But when a class competition challenges her to team up, she learns that the best ideas often come from working together.



**Tadpole to Frog**  
by Shira Evans

A tiny tadpole begins an incredible underwater journey. Step by step, readers watch it grow legs, lose its tail, and transform into a hopping frog.



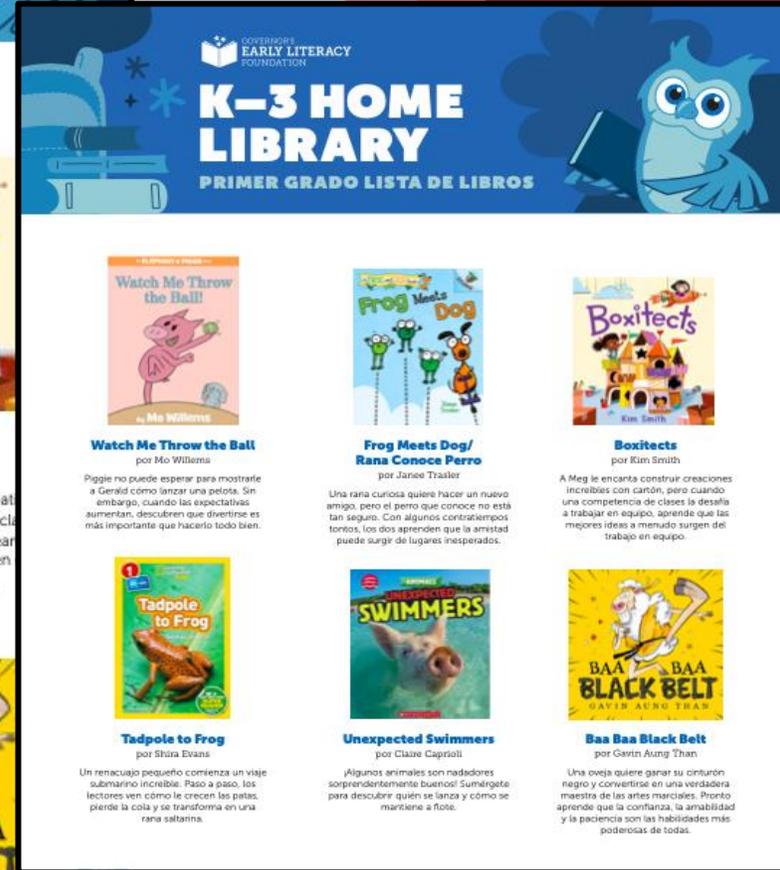
**Unexpected Swimmers**  
by Claire Caprioli

Some animals are surprisingly great swimmers! Dive in to discover who takes the plunge—and how they stay afloat.



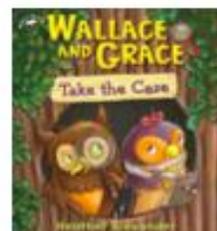
**Baa Baa Black Belt**  
by Gavin Aung Than

Sheep wants to earn his black belt and become a true martial arts master. But he soon learns that confidence, kindness, and patience are the most powerful skills of all.



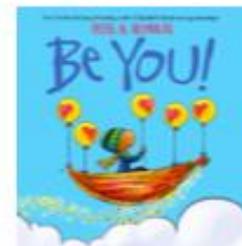
**Greatness Grows Here!**

# Current First Grade (Rising 2<sup>nd</sup>) Book List



**Wallace and Grace Take the Case**  
by Heather Alexander

Owl detectives Wallace and Grace are on the case when a forest friend needs help. Together they follow clues, solve problems, and show that teamwork makes any mystery manageable.



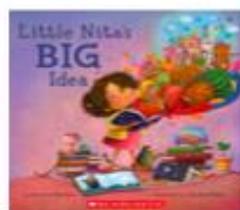
**Be You!**  
by Peter H. Reynolds

This uplifting story encourages kids to explore who they are and who they hope to be. With warmth and kindness, it reminds readers that being yourself is the greatest adventure.



**Do You Like My Bike?**  
by Norm Feuti

Hedgehog wants his best friend Harry like his brand-new bike. But honesty and kindness help these two friends get through a tricky moment together.



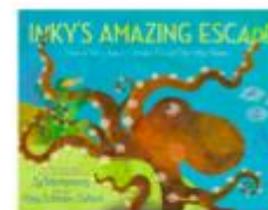
**Little Nita's Big Idea/La Gran Idea de la Pequena Nita**  
by Anna W. Bardaus

When a storm threatens her family's plans, Nita comes up with a clever solution. Her creativity shows that big ideas can come from small people.



**Unexpected Flyers**  
by Jay Leslie

Not all great fliers have feathers or wings you expect! Discover surprising animals that take to the sky and learn the science behind how they soar.



**Inky's Amazing Escape**  
by Sy Montgomery

Inky the octopus is curious, clever, and always full of surprises. Based on a true story, this book follows his daring escape and return to the sea.



**Wallace and Grace Take the Case**

por Heather Alexander  
Wallace y Grace, los detectives búhos, están trabajando en un caso cuando un amigo del bosque necesita ayuda. Juntos siguen pistas, resuelven problemas y demuestran que el trabajo en equipo



**Be You!**

Esta historia inspiradora anima a los niños a explorar quiénes son y quiénes esperan ser. Les recuerda a los lectores, con calidez y amabilidad, que ser uno mismo es la mayor aventura.



**Do You Like My Bike?**

Un erizo desea que a su mejor amigo, Harry, le guste su nueva bicicleta, pero la honestidad y la amabilidad ayudan a estos dos amigos a superar juntos un momento complicado.



**Little Nita's Big Idea/La Gran Idea de la Pequena Nita**

por Anna W. Bardaus  
Cuando una tormenta amenaza los planes de su familia, Nita encuentra una solución inteligente. Su creatividad demuestra que las grandes ideas pueden surgir de personas pequeñas.



**Unexpected Flyers**

No todos los grandes voladores tienen las plumas o alas que uno espera! Descubre animales sorprendentes que surcan el cielo y aprenda la ciencia detrás de su vuelo.



**Inky's Amazing Escape**

Inky, el pulpo, es curioso e inteligente, y siempre está lleno de sorpresas. Basado en una historia real, este libro sigue su aventura huida y su regreso al mar.

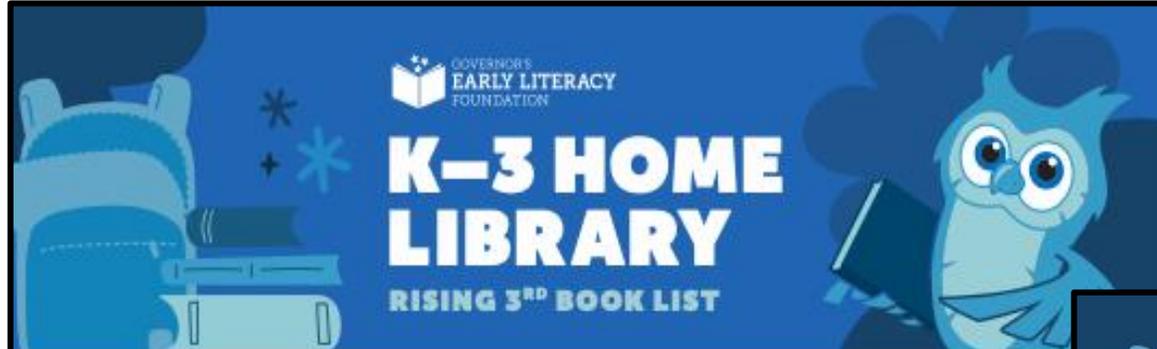


Access additional resources  
Prepared by GELF's Educator Advisory Council, a group of Tennessee educators, to encourage engagement with the K-3 Home Library books.



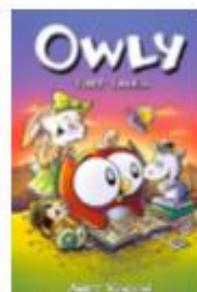
**Greatness Grows Here!**

# Current Second Grade (Rising 3<sup>rd</sup>) Book List



**Hut! Hut! Hike!**  
by Andrew Marantz

A young football fan learns what it takes to be part of a team. With heart, hustle, and a lot of practice, he discovers that effort matters more than winning.



**Owly Tiny Tales**  
by Andy Runton

Owly loves helping his friends and making new ones along the way. Through sweet, mostly wordless comics, he shows how kindness can solve almost any problem.



**Ellie May on President's Day**  
by Hillary Hornzic

Ellie May is excited to take on a leadership role for President's Day. But she tries her hardest to shine, she learns that fairness and patience matter just as much as enthusiasm.



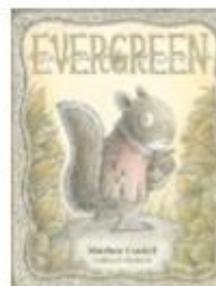
**Cats vs. Dogs**  
by Elizabeth Carney

This book uncovers fun facts about two favorite pets and compares how they live, play, and communicate. Readers will enjoy deciding once and for all which furry friend comes out on top.



**Amphibians**  
by Beenna Maloney

Leap into the fascinating world of frogs, toads, salamanders, and more. Packed with cool facts and vivid photos, this book shows how amazing amphibians truly are.



**Evergreen**  
by Matthew Cordell

Evergreen is a timid young squirrel asked to deliver medicine to her sick grandmother. Along the way, she faces unexpected challenges that help her discover bravery she didn't know she had.



**Hut! Hut! Hike!**  
por Andrew Marantz

Un joven aficionado al fútbol americano aprende lo que se necesita para ser parte de un equipo. Con corazón, esfuerzo y mucha práctica, descubre que el esfuerzo es más importante que ganar.



**Owly Tiny Tales**  
por Andy Runton

A Owly le encanta ayudar a sus amigos y hacer amigos nuevos en el camino. A través de cómics dulces, en su mayoría sin palabras, muestra cómo la amabilidad puede resolver casi cualquier problema.



**Ellie May on President's Day**  
por Hillary Hornzic

Ellie May está emocionada de asumir un papel de liderazgo para el Día del Presidente. Pero a medida que se esfuerza al máximo para brillar, aprende que la justicia y la paciencia importan tanto como el entusiasmo.



**Cats vs. Dogs**  
por Elizabeth Carney

En este libro, se revelan datos divertidos sobre dos mascotas favoritas y se compara cómo viven, juegan y se comunican. Los lectores disfrutarán al decidir de una vez por todas qué amigo peludo será el vencedor.



**Amphibians**  
por Beenna Maloney

Sumérjete en el fascinante mundo de las ranas, los sapos, las salamandras y más. Repleto de datos interesantes y fotografías vividas, este libro muestra lo asombrosos que son en realidad los anfibios.



**Evergreen**  
por Matthew Cordell

Evergreen es una ardilla joven y tímida a quien le piden que le entregue medicamentos a su abuela enferma. En el camino, se enfrenta a desafíos inesperados que la ayudan a descubrir una valentía que no sabía que tenía.

**Greatness Grows Here!**



So, the question you may be asking is-

-How can you help us get the word out?

# K-3 HOME LIBRARY

INTRODUCTION FOR CAREGIVERS

## What is the K-3 Home Library Program?

The K-3 Home Library program is an annual summer book delivery initiative that serves public school students across Tennessee, made available by Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (GELF). The purpose of the program is to provide students with books and resources to support learning in the home and help combat student learning loss. This is accomplished by delivering a pack of high-quality, age-appropriate books and literacy building materials directly to the homes of participating elementary school students during the summer, at no cost to families or schools.

## What your child will receive:

Each rising 1st-3rd grade student in our school will receive six high-quality books and activity pages this summer at no cost to you. Below is the GELF 2026 K-3 Home Library book list. These books were carefully selected by GELF's statewide Educator Advisory Council, made up of 22 teachers, reading specialists, librarians, and school administrators across Tennessee to align with the content, curriculum, and classroom preparedness goals for your student's upcoming grade level.

WHAT'S INSIDE:  
Sample Rising 3rd grade

CAREGIVER  
LETTER



6 THINKSHEETS

6 BOOKS

## K-3 Home Library Book List, Summer 2026

6 HIGH-QUALITY, AGE-APPROPRIATE BOOKS & THINKSHEET ACTIVITY RESOURCES

RISING 1 <sup>ST</sup> GRADE	RISING 2 <sup>ND</sup> GRADE	RISING 3 <sup>RD</sup> GRADE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Watch Me Throw the Ball</b> by Mo Willems</li> <li><b>Frog Meets Dog/Rana Conoco Perro</b> by Janee Trasler</li> <li><b>Boxitects</b> by Kim Smith</li> <li><b>Tadpole to Frog, Level 1</b> by Shira Evans</li> <li><b>Unexpected Swimmers</b> by Claire Caprioli</li> <li><b>Baa Baa Black Belt</b> by Gavin Aung Than</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Wallace &amp; Grace Take the Case</b> by Heather Alexander</li> <li><b>Be You!</b> by Peter H. Reynolds</li> <li><b>Do You Like My Bike?</b> by Norm Feuti</li> <li><b>Little Nita's Big Idea/La Gran Idea de la Pequeña Nita</b> by Anna W. Bardaus</li> <li><b>Unexpected Flyers</b> by Jay Leslie</li> <li><b>Inky's Amazing Escape</b> by Sy Montgomery</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hut! Hut! Hike!</b> by Andrew Maraniss</li> <li><b>Owly Tiny Tales</b> by Andy Runton</li> <li><b>Ellie May on President's Day</b> by Hillary Homzie</li> <li><b>Cats vs. Dogs - Science Readers Level 3</b> by Elizabeth Carney</li> <li><b>Amphibians</b> by Brenna Maloney</li> <li><b>Evergreen</b> by Matthew Cordell</li> </ol>



Access additional resources  
Prepared by GELF's Educator Advisory Council, a group of Tennessee educators, to encourage engagement with the K-3 Home Library books.



# GOVERNOR'S EARLY LITERACY FOUNDATION 2026 K-3 HOME LIBRARY PROGRAM

Free Books for Rising First, Second, and Third Grade Students!  
(Current Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Students)



Parents and Caregivers of Kindergarten, first, and second graders, in collaboration with **Governor's Early Literacy Foundation** our students have an opportunity to have their home libraries extended by taking part in the **Governor's Early Literacy Foundation's 2026 K-3 Home Library** program this summer!

Each rising first, second, and third grade student, which means current Kindergarten, first, and second graders, in our District will receive six high-quality books this

summer at no cost to you. As a part of the process, we want to make you aware of this program and get permission for your child to participate.

For your child to participate in this program, we will need to securely share your directory information with the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation. Directory data includes things you may see in a phone book, such as names and addresses.

**If you would like to participate, no action is needed.**

If you choose **NOT** to participate, then complete the brief survey linked here by **THURSDAY, February 19, 2026**. Taking this step will ensure your child will **NOT** receive the books. In order to opt out, you must do so by noon on **Thursday, February 19th**.

For questions or more information, please call the MSCS Curriculum and Instruction, Literacy Team at 901-416-4552 or email at [OfficeofLiteracy@SCSK12.ORG](mailto:OfficeofLiteracy@SCSK12.ORG).

Survey to opt out and **NOT** receive books:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/ukWjDsnVWm>



**Opt-Out  
Only**



**Contact:**

Department of Curriculum and Instruction,  
**ELA Team**

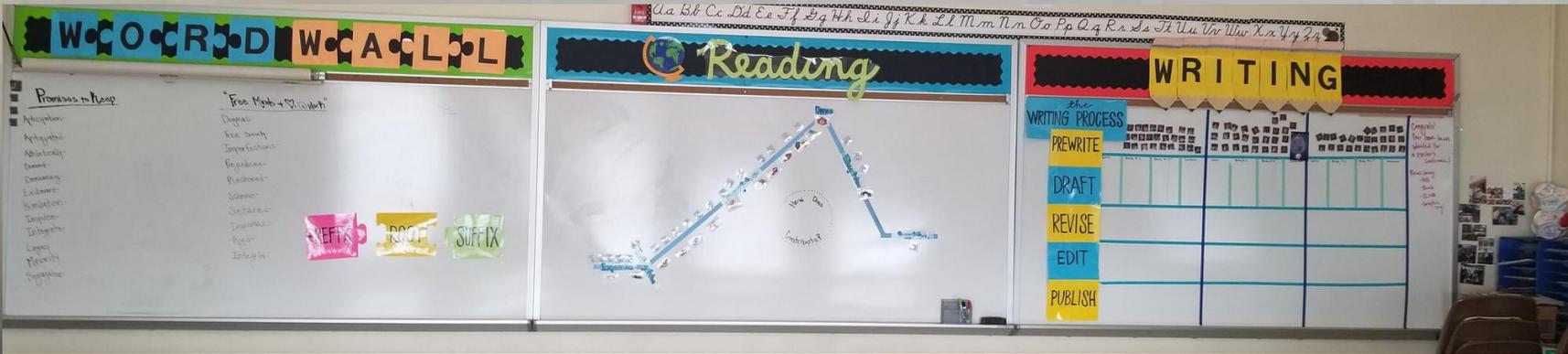
[OfficeofLiteracy@scsk12.org](mailto:OfficeofLiteracy@scsk12.org)



# HOW FAMILIES CAN CREATE AN IN-HOME LIBRARY

# CHRISTA OGIER

MPL Education Liaison Coordinator



# FAMILY LITERACY

“is imperative in creating a foundation for children’s learning experiences, and it starts with the parents”

World Literacy Foundation



# AT HOME LIBRARY

“The difference between being raised in a bookless home compared to being raised in a home with a 500-book library\*\* has as great an effect on the level of education a child will attain as having parents who are barely literate (3 years of education) compared to having parents who have a university education (15 or 16 years of education).”

The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

# HOME LIBRARY HOW-TO

- 1) Child choice
- 2) Diverse selection
  - cultures
  - graphic
  - non-fiction
  - difficulty
- 3) Comfy/inviting space



# MAKE IT INTERACTIVE

## Organize Books



## Family Book Review/Rating

### Serve and Return

#### Before Reading

- What do you see/notice?
- What do you think this story is going to be about?

#### While Reading

- How do you think the character is feeling? What makes you think that?
- Would you make the same decision as this character? Why or why not?
- What might happen next?

#### End

- What was your favorite part? Why?
- Which character do you think would be your friend?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend?

	<b>1 Star</b> This book wasn't for me. I wouldn't read it again.
	<b>2 Stars</b> I liked some parts of this book. I probably wouldn't read it again.
	<b>3 Stars</b> I really enjoyed this book. I would read it again.
	<b>4 Stars</b> I loved this book! I can't wait to read it again!

**My Book Review**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you feel about this book?

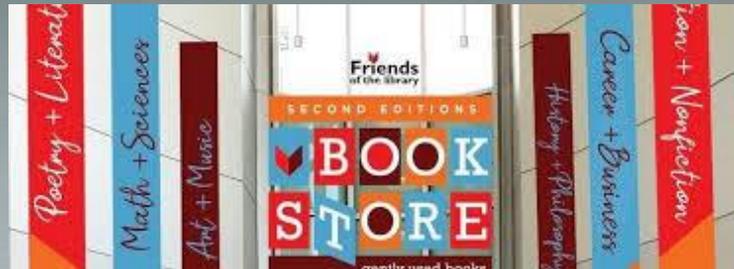
  

# BOOKS ON A BUDGET

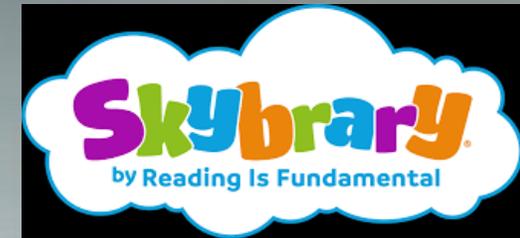
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library  
(Ages 0-5)



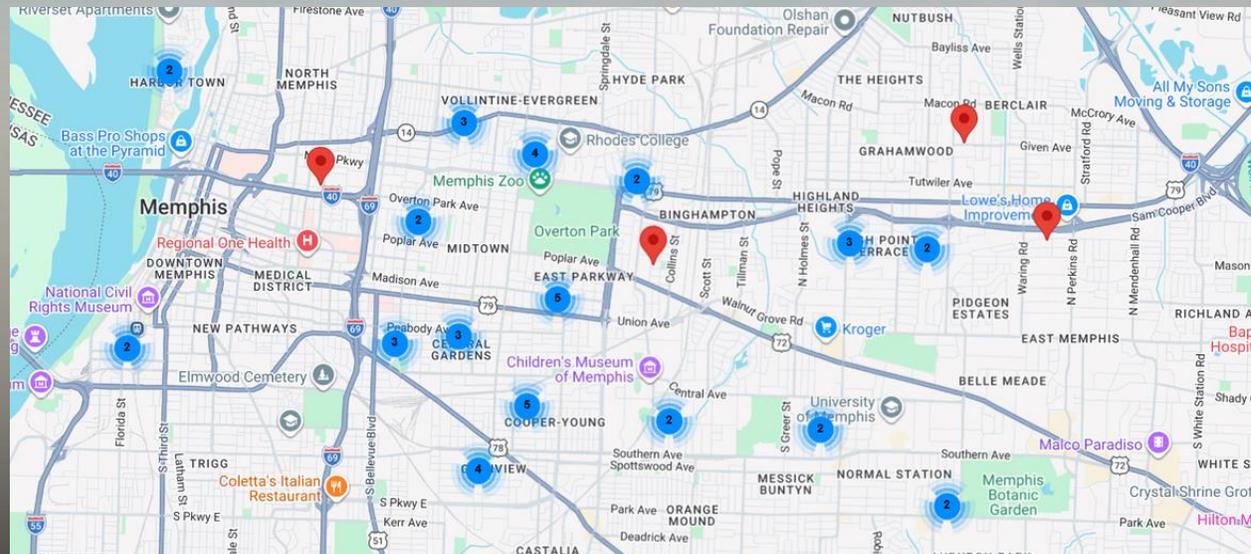
Used Book Stores/Sales



Book App



Little Free Libraries



# BUILD LIBRARY VISITS INTO YOUR ROUTINE

## Our Calendar



Filters

Keyword Search

Age Group

- Children (Age 0-5)
- Children (Age 6-8)
- Tweens (Age 8-12)
- Teens
- Adults
- Adults-Seniors

Program

Library Branch

Ongoing Events

Apply Print

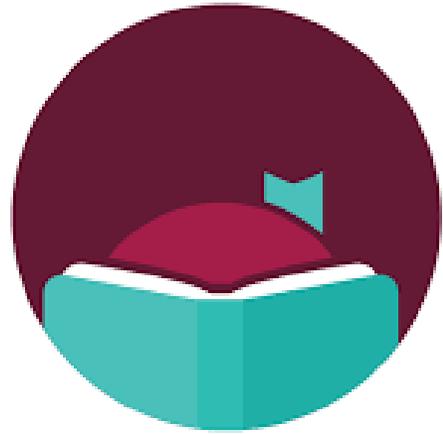
**FEB 13 FRI** **Sensory Storytime**  
11:00am-12:00pm  
Children (Age 0-5),  
Children (Age 6-8),  
Tweens (Age 8-12)  
Benjamin L. Hooks  
Central Library

**FEB 21 SAT** **Read with a Pup!  
(Children's Reading Therapy Program)**  
11:00am-1:00pm  
Children (Age 0-5),  
Children (Age 6-8),  
Tweens (Age 8-12)  
Benjamin L. Hooks  
Central Library

# MORE THAN BOOKS



# DIGITAL RESOURCES



Libby.



# LIBRARY CARDS

CHECK-OUT  
25 ITEMS AT  
A TIME!!

ACCESS  
TO ALL 18  
BRANCHE  
S AROUND  
MEMPHIS

NO OVER  
DUE  
FINES!

ACCESS TO  
DATA BASES,  
AUDIO AND  
E-BOOKS!

AND SO  
MUCH  
MORE!

# LET'S STAY



# CONNECTED

CHRISTA  
MPL Education Liaison  
OGIER





# 10-MINUTE BREAK



Greatness Grows Here!

# Designing Engaging Parent Workshops & Literacy Labs (Bridge Builders Creation Lab)



Valerie Jones

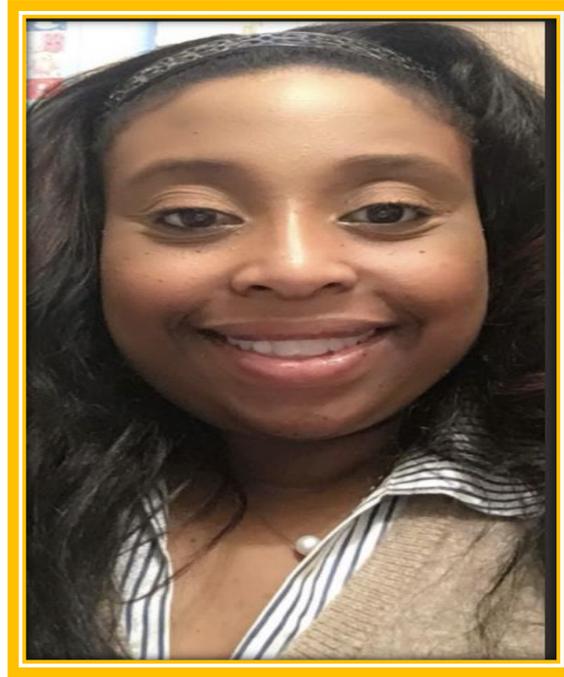
Family Engagement Specialist

Crump Elementary School



Greatness Grows Here!

# Hands-On Literacy Experience: Our Family, Our Stories!



**Tabitha Dean**

Community School Specialist

LaRose Elementary School



Greatness Grows Here!

# I am a Bridge Builder



**Corey Cunningham**  
Community School Specialist  
Northaven Elementary School



Greatness Grows **Here!**

# Closing: Bridge Builders Forward

**Myrtle Winfield**  
Community School Manager



Greatness Grows Here!



Greatness Grows Here!

# A.M. District Learning Day Survey

## There are 3 ways to access the survey:

- You may enter the link below on your phone or computer.

**<https://forms.office.com/r/C4edR7pkRL>**

- On your cell phone, open your camera and point it at the code. A prompt will appear at the top of your screen.
- If you have a QR reader app on your phone, open it to scan the code.

Performance and Leadership Development

## A.M. - District Learning Day Survey

