

NEWS FROM YOUR PEER LIAISON



GWEN TIMMERMAN

IFAPA Peer Liaison

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**I UNDERSTAND...
I AM A FOSTER PARENT TOO**

IFAPA recognizes that foster parents often need the perspective of peers during the foster parenting and adoption experience.

I can provide support and assist you with questions regarding:

- Licensing requirements
- Training needs
- Respite care
- Behavior challenges
- Working with birth families
- Confidentiality issues
- And much more!



www.ifapa.org

March is National Reading Month

March 2nd is Read Across America Day. It is a national initiative on reading, created by the National Education Association (NEA) to coincide with the birthday of Dr. Seuss. All over the country, students will be participating in this event. The idea behind Read Across America is to encourage children to read and find a love of reading the whole year through. Many activities in schools on March 2nd will revolve around reading.

Why is reading with a child and encouraging them to read so important? According to the NEA's website, students who are read to and/or read themselves do better in many different areas including writing and math.

What can you do to encourage a love of reading?

- Read aloud to a child, especially a child who is an emerging or struggling reader. It helps with fluency.
- Have many different types of reading materials available. Have fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers, etc.
- Talk to a child about what they like to read and make that kind available to them.
- Go to the library and let them spend time perusing all of the different books. Help steer them in the direction of books that fit their interests and are at their reading ability level. (Librarians can help, if you are unsure!)
- Set aside time to read. Maybe they can go to bed at the regular time, but they can leave the lights on for half an hour and read.
- Let children see YOU read. Be a good role model and take the time to read yourself.

Here is a list of great books from Scholastic.com for children by age:

0-3

- Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt**
- Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard**
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle**

4-7

- The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein**
- The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds**
- Swimmy* by Leo Lionni**

8-10

- Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin**
- The Maze of Bones* by Rick Riordan**
- Matilda* by Roald Dahl**
- Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White**

11+

- A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle**
- Holes* by Louis Sachar**
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling**

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According to Time magazine here are some of the best teen books of all time:

***Jacob Have I Loved* by Katharine Paterson
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher**

**You're never too old, too wacky, too wild,
To pick up a book and read with a child.**

~Dr. Seuss



MARCH SUPPORT GROUPS/TRAINING

Waverly, Vineyard Community Church, 319 West Bremer Ave.

Parkersburg- Monarch Therapy, 505 Coates Street

Both locations meet monthly on the 1st Tuesday. **The next meeting will be on March 1.** One hour of training will be provided on "How to Talk to Your Kids About the Tough Stuff—Sex, Internet Safety, Alcohol, Drugs, etc."

Waverly meets 6pm- 8pm for training and support. Childcare available with RSVP.

Parkersburg meets 6pm-7pm for training only. No childcare.

CONTACT PERSONS: Nancy Magnall, IFAPA Resource Info Specialist

319-352-3600 or nmagnall@ifapa.org OR Gwen Timmerman, IFAPA Peer Liaison, 319-883-3594 or gtimmerman@ifapa.org)

Waterloo-Grace Lutheran Church, 1024 W. 8th Street

Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday from 6:30pm-8:30pm. **The next meeting is March 8.** Two hours of training will be provided by Pathways on "Drug Trends." Child care available with RSVP. **CONTACT PERSON:** Gwen Timmerman, IFAPA Peer Liaison, 319-883-3594 or gtimmerman@ifapa.org)

REMINDERS:

REASONABLE & PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD IS A REQUIRED ON-LINE TRAINING THROUGH IFAPA.ORG (30 MINUTES, NO CREDIT)

DUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 *THOSE WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS CAN CONTACT THEIR PEER LIAISON FOR ASSISTANCE. 319-883-3594 or gtimmerman@ifapa.org)

AMP—Achieving Maximum Potential (for Teens)

Waterloo AMP meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1024 West 8th Street, Waterloo. Contact: Jessica Christman at 515-451-4233 (cell) OR jperrychristman@gmail.com

Marshalltown AMP meets every first and third Tuesday of the month from 6-8 p.m. at the YSS of Marshall County office located at 11 E. State St. Marshalltown. Contact Alyson Hicks at Mtownamp@hotmail.com or call me at 641-751-1776.

Bookworm Bookmark Craft

www.freekidscrafts.com

Supplies

- Construction Paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Wiggle Eyes
- Glue Stick
- Markers or Colored Pencils
- Large Bottle Cap or Small Plastic Lid to Trace Around

Instructions

1. Trace six times around a Snapple cap or other bottle cap onto a piece of construction paper. Cut out the circles.
2. Glue the circles together in a row to make a worm.
3. Glue on wiggle eyes.
4. Cut out or write the letters "READ!" on the circles.

