

April 2022

Imagination Library eNews

Information and resources for Imagination Library families



**IMAGINATION
LIBRARY**



United Way of Erie County

As of March 2022, **927,327** books have been delivered to more than **26,312** children in Erie County. 100% of Imagination Library program funds are raised by support to **United Way of Erie County**. Learn More and register an Erie County child under the age of 5 in your life: UnitedWayErie.org/Imagination

**Do you know someone who may want to register a child for United Way's Imagination Library in Erie County?
It's simple! Forward this newsletter or share [this link](#).**

Kindergarten Registration 2022

Kindergarten registration is right around the corner! School districts across Erie County will begin registering incoming kindergarten students this spring. United Way of Erie County publishes a kindergarten registration flyer

It's time to think about kindergarten registration



every year that lists important registration details for each school district. Keep an eye on our Kindergarten Registration [page](#) for 2022 updated registration details or reach out to your school district directly.

Ready or Not Kindergarten, Here We Come!

With kindergarten registration happening across Erie County, what better to kick off this important milestone than with some [tips](#) to help you and your child prepare for kindergarten.

TIPS: *develop independence, focus on self-help skills, teach responsibility, develop and follow routines, read aloud, engage in literacy activities and acknowledge their feelings*

Imagination Library Book Spotlight

Dandelion Magic

By Darren Farrell

Jonah's nana has always told him that some dandelions are magical and can grant wishes.

When a wish turns Jonah into a pirate, it's up to the reader to help him navigate the choppy waters and all the great monsters he meets by blowing the wind, making faces and doing raspberries. [Watch the read aloud!](#)



Keep Your Family Going This Month!

How to Help Kids Feel Loved and Lovable

Children thrive when their caregivers, whether that is a parent, grandparent or teacher offer them consistent love and support. PBS Parents share four ideas for helping children feel loved and lovable. [Learn more](#)

Talking to Toddlers: Communication Kids Will Actually Respond To

Toddler communication is its own special language. Child Mind Institute asked a panel of experts what parents can do to make talking to toddlers more effective and less fraught. [Learn more](#)

12 Tips for Raising Confident Kids

Our friends over at Child Mind Institute share 12 ways you can prepare children to feel capable and make the most of their skills and talents. [Learn more](#)



Check out [United Way's Raising Readers](#) calendar for **FREE** community and online offerings!

Take a moment to plan which events may fit into your family schedule.

Building Social and Emotional Skills at Home

Our friends over at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) share suggestions for helping your child develop social and emotional skills at home.

These tips include: *use of puppets, thinking out loud, reading bedtime stories, doing a job together, playing games and preventing potential problems.* [Learn more](#)

Quality Early Care and Education Help is Available!

Erie's Future Fund wants more children to be prepared for success in kindergarten and life. The Fund **provides scholarships to children from low-income families** to attend a high-quality early childhood education program within Erie County.

Through the federal Head Start program, Child Development Centers offers a free, full-day preschool program to 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children that includes breakfast, lunch, snack, and transportation at select locations. Families can learn more about the Head Start program by calling 814-480-9505 or beginning their enrollment online at www.cdcenters.org/enroll-now.



If your family resides in Erie County, has an annual income at or below 185 percent of the poverty level and have a child who will be attending kindergarten in one or two years, your child may be eligible for these scholarships! Learn more about quality early care [here](#).

Erie Family Center's Diaper Depot



Thanks to [support](#) from United Way of Erie County, the Erie Family Center's Diaper Depot is now countywide and expanding! Be sure to check out the Erie Family Center for complete information on upcoming Diaper Depot distribution events. [Learn more](#)



Important Information

- Learning is Everywhere: [In the Doctor's Office](#)
 - Grab your family clothes, toys, and books at [Erie Free Store](#), open Mondays 4:30 to 7 p.m.!
 - Need help finding quality early learning information? Get to know the [Early Learning Resource Center - Region 1](#)
 - [Keep on reading for free, check out your local public library!](#)
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Join our K Ready Erie community!

Stay Connected!



United Way has launched a Facebook group dedicated to informing Imagination Library and Raising Readers families about **free** resources and events in Erie County that will have your child ready for each school year! [K Ready Erie](#)

Looking to Spring forward and find a family-friendly event for you and the family? Make sure to check out the full list of events from the Macaroni KID Erie [page](#).

Great information, resources, reading guides and tips are shared on the Imagination Library for Erie County [Facebook page](#).

Be sure to Like and Follow the page to stay up to date and informed!



Help is one call away.

Please remember to dial United Way's **211** helpline when you need help or face times of uncertainty. A trained operator will connect you with information about financial assistance, counseling, food/clothing/shelter, health services, substance abuse and much more! **It's always free and confidential.**



Pennsylvania | Northwest

You can also text your zip code to 898-211 to be helped by 211.



United Way of Erie County

If you are not receiving books, or have a specific question about the Imagination Library please contact **Joanna Peters** via [email](#) or phone **(814) 456-2937 ext. 233**.