

February 2022

# Imagination Library eNews

*Information and resources for Imagination Library families*



# IMAGINATION LIBRARY



United Way of Erie County

As of January 2022, ☐ **918,498** books have been delivered to more than **26,044** 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](https://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](#).**

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## 10 Ways Your Child Can Learn About Black History



February is Black History Month, a time to celebrate the impact of African American heritage, culture, and achievement in our country. While most K–12 schools incorporate Black history activities into their curriculum, Black History Month offers a wonderful opportunity to extend your child's learning at home or enhance your homeschool curriculum. Here are 10 ways

your student can learn about Black history and culture. You don't have to wait until February—these activities and resources can be used throughout the year! [Learn more](#)

Also, check out this list of [5 Ways to Celebrate Black History Month](#) from our friends at Macaroni Kid Erie!

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## Kindergarten Registration 2022

It's time to think about  
**kindergarten registration**



Kindergarten registration is right around the corner! 2022 registration information will be available in the next few weeks.

Keep an eye on United Way's K Ready registration page for updated details or reach out to your school district for more information!

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## Creating New Family Traditions for the New Year

With a new year comes new year resolutions. Most of us make them but rarely stick to them. Instead of resolutions, consider adding simple rhythms or routines into your day. This helpful article from PBS Parents shares 15 easy ways to connect as family in 2022. [Learn more](#)



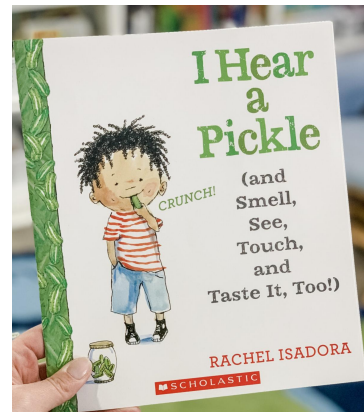
## Imagination Library Book Spotlight

### I Hear a Pickle

By Rachel Isadora

Hearing, smelling, seeing, touching, tasting—our five senses allow us to experience the world in so many ways!

With our ears we hear the birds sing; with our nose we smell the stinky cheese; with our eyes we see the moon and stars (and sometimes glasses help us see even better!); with our skin we feel the rain (and learn not to touch the hot stove!); and with our tongue we can taste our favorite foods.



Isadora's lively art reveals the power and delight of each sense! [Watch the read aloud!](#)

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## Keep Your Family Going This Month!

### Stick with It: Encouraging Persistence in Kids

Persistence describes how long we are able to stick at a task, manage frustration and push through challenges we encounter. This quality is part of a child's growing self-regulation skills, which emerge between 3 and 7 years of age and continue

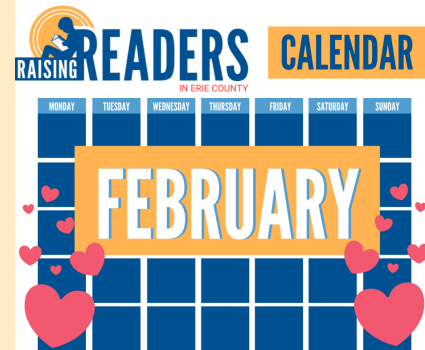
to develop for many more. Our friends over at PBS Parents share some ideas on how to parent children at all levels of the persistence ladder. [Learn more](#)

### Brush Up on Oral Health

The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages children to begin brushing their teeth (with help!) as early as developmentally appropriate. This article shares tips on how to incorporate good oral health into a nightly routine. [Learn more](#)

### Make the Most of Playtime

In this article from the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning at Vanderbilt University, the authors share tips on how to make the most of your child's playtime regardless of their age. [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 and plans in the New Year!

## Why Ages 2-7 Matter So Much for Brain Development



Children's brains develop in spurts called critical periods. The first "spurt" occurs around age 2 and concludes around age 7. In this article from Edutopia, Rishi Sriram, Associate Professor of Education at Baylor University, shares four ways adults can maximize these critical spurts in young children. [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](http://www.cdcenters.org/enroll-now).



If your family resides in Erie County, has an annual income at or below 185% 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](#)



### State Parks and Forests Offer Abundance of Activities During Winter Months

Winter in Pennsylvania, especially in Erie, can be breathtaking! Spending time outdoors in the winter months offers opportunities to explore nature that isn't seen during the warmer months. So, take advantage of our winter weather and head outdoors to explore! [Check out activities](#)

### 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 7pm!
- 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!](#)

### Join our K Ready Erie community!



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](#)

### Stay Connected!

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.

February 11 (2-11) is 211 Day! 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.**

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**.