

March 2022

# Imagination Library eNews

*Information and resources for Imagination Library families*



# IMAGINATION LIBRARY



United Way of Erie County

As of February 2022, ☐ **918,498** books have been delivered to more than **26,167** 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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## Kindergarten Registration 2022

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



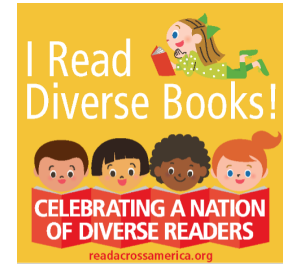
Kindergarten registration is right around the corner! 2022 registration information is currently updated on our United Way's K Ready registration [page](#).

## Reading Awareness Month

March is Reading Awareness Month! The National Education Association [shares](#) diverse book lists each month to celebrate the diversity in our world.

You can also watch [video](#) featuring Dr. Kristen Chandler. Dr. Chandler is a local pediatrician and share the important connection between early literacy and brain development.

You can check out more information on our K-Ready Erie Facebook [group](#).



## Imagination Library Book Spotlight

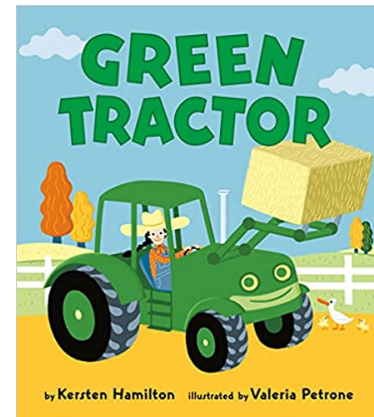
### Green Tractor

*By Kersten Hamilton*

It's Harvest Day at the farm, but before the kids arrive Green Tractor has to help their farmer friend get everything ready.

They have to move big boulders using the hayfork and plow the land for the pumpkin races.

And when the kids get there, it's time for Green Tractor to shine by pulling the wagon for the hayride! [Watch the read aloud!](#)



## Keep Your Family Going This Month!

### Learning Through the Senses

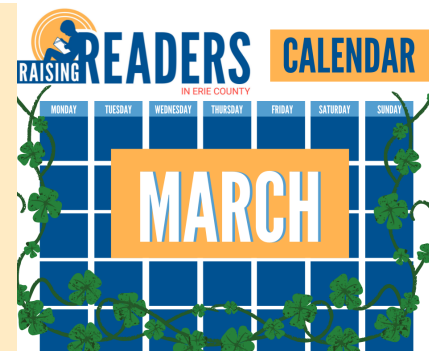
Our friends over at Sesame Street share a few ways you can help your little one learn about the world the around using only their 5 senses. [Learn more](#)

### Building a Love of Literacy at Any Age

All children develop at their own pace and in their own time. Our friends over at Sesame Street share some tips to help build a love of reading and writing at any age. [Learn more](#)

### Playdough Power

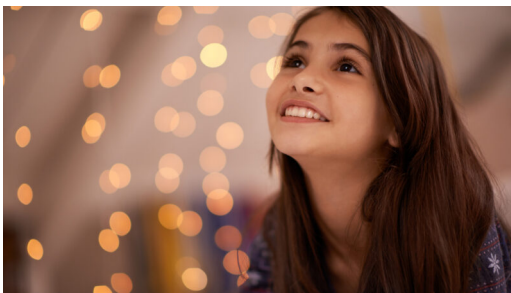
Squishing, rolling, sculpting, molding . . . young children love to play with playdough. Add some props from around the home and playdough play becomes a powerful way to support your child's learning. This simple preschool staple lets children use their imaginations and strengthen the small muscles in their fingers—the same muscles they will one day use to hold a pencil and write. [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!

## Simple Ways to Help Your Child Love Learning



I picked my 4-year-old up from preschool one day recently, and his eyes beamed with energy, his little legs bunny-hopping with excitement as he sprung into the car. I couldn't quite make sense of the flow of chatter that accompanied his enthusiasm yet, but clearly something awesome had happened at school.

Slow down, little buddy.

I caught the words "goodest day ever" and then something about a machine. Then slowly, the details trickled out. [Learn more](#)

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## 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](#).

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## 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

### 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!](#)

head outdoors to explore! **Check out activities**

### 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.

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.



**Pennsylvania | Northwest**



**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**.