



JULY - SEPT 2025 ISSUE 3

# Newsletter

early  
learning  
coalition  
OF PASCO & HERNANDO  
A Space To Grow In Service  
**20** Years  
[www.elcph.org](http://www.elcph.org)



## ELCPH Mission Statement

**Creating a supportive community  
for children to be successful in  
school and life.**



## ELCPH Vision Statement

**Supporting quality education  
for every child.**



## The Power of Literacy in Early Childhood: Bridging the Summer Learning Gap

Literacy is the foundation of lifelong learning and begins long before a child enters school. From birth to age five, early exposure to language-rich environments is critical for brain development and long-term academic success. Simple activities like reading, singing, talking, and storytelling help build vocabulary, comprehension, and communication skills. Children who are regularly read to develop stronger language abilities, better listening skills, and a love for books and learning. These early experiences directly impact later reading and writing achievement.

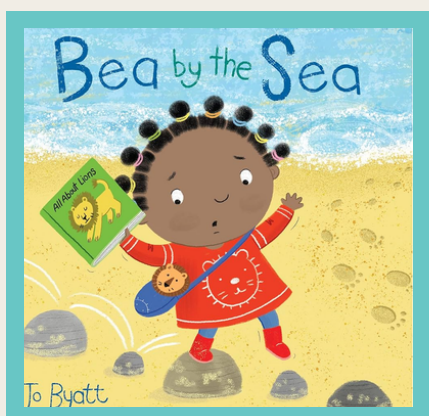
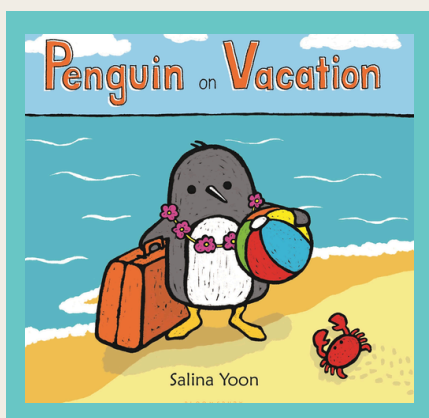
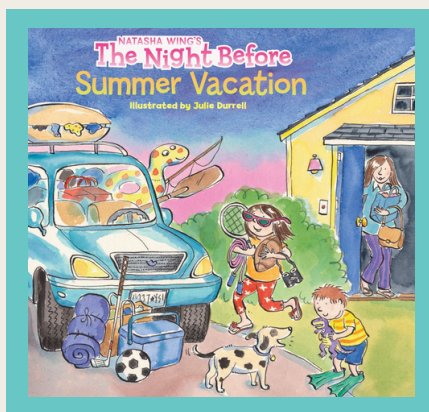


**Summer is a key time to reinforce these skills. Without regular engagement, young children may experience summer learning loss, which can delay school readiness. Summer reading helps bridge this gap by keeping minds active and language skills growing.**

Families play a vital role. Reading daily, labeling objects at home, and encouraging drawing or pretend play can support literacy in fun, natural ways. Participating in library summer reading programs or creating a simple reading routine at home can make a big difference. Every story shared over the summer builds a stronger foundation for a child's academic journey.



## Owlivia's Reading Corner



# Encouraging Literacy: Beat the Summer Slide!

As summer fun begins, it is important to keep your child's learning gears turning. Research from the Institute of Education Sciences has shown that loss of knowledge over summer break affects children, but can also be prevented. Continuing to foster fundamental skills such as literacy, plus reinforcement through practice and consistency can help prevent learning loss.

Keep literacy on the forefront this summer with weekly trips to your local [Pasco](#) and [Hernando](#) county libraries. Try reading one book daily with your child, or have them read to you depending on their skill level. These tips can help your child launch into preschool, VPK, or kindergarten with confidence and preparedness. Check out some of our book recommendations below!

## Summer Reading Picks

**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** - Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

**Penguin on Vacation** - Salina Yoon

**The Night Before Summer Vacation** - Natasha Wing

**Bea by the Sea** - Jo Byatt

**Fun Dog, Sun Dog** - Deborah Heiligman



### Attention Parents!

We're giving away four (4) *Old MacDonald Story Sack* and *Preschool Book Bundles* to four lucky parents!! To enter, simply click the link below and provide your name, email, and phone number. Winners will be randomly selected for a chance to win one of these fun and educational bundles!

[Giveaway Submission Link](#)

**GIVEAWAY!**



# Family Engagement

## Little Learners, Big Futures: Growing Literacy at Home Together

Family engagement plays a crucial role in children's literacy development, especially from birth to age five. When families are actively involved in their child's learning, children are more likely to develop strong language, communication, and reading skills that set the foundation for academic success.

Children thrive when literacy is part of daily life at home. Talking, singing, reading, and storytelling expose children to a rich vocabulary and help them understand the rhythm and structure of language. Research from the National Early Literacy Panel shows that children whose families regularly read with them have higher levels of early literacy skills, including letter recognition, phonemic awareness, and comprehension.

Programs and schools can support families by sharing literacy tips, offering take-home books, and connecting them with resources like **Read Aloud 15 Minutes** and local libraries.

**When families and educators work together, children benefit from a strong, consistent foundation for literacy that supports lifelong learning and success.**

**To promote family engagement in literacy, caregivers can build simple routines that make reading fun and meaningful. Set aside a few minutes each day for shared reading.**

**Access your  
3-month  
activity  
calendar  
here!**

- Let children choose their own books, ask questions, and talk about the story together.
- Label everyday objects around the home to increase word exposure.
- Use songs and rhymes to make learning playful and memorable.
- Mealtime and bedtime can become opportunities for storytelling and conversation.







This year, your child will be taking Renaissance Star Early Literacy to gauge their performance on early literacy and numeracy skills as part of the FAST Star Early Literacy. At minimum, the assessment will be administered at the beginning, middle and end of the program year to monitor your child's progress.



**Star Early Literacy is a computer-adaptive assessment designed to measure the early literacy skills of beginning readers. The assessment identifies the student's mastery of literacy concepts that are related to their future success as readers.**

The assessment includes audio narration, with a narrator reading questions aloud to students. The questions get easier or more difficult depending on how the student responds. The assessment typically takes less than 15 minutes to complete. **Your child's score will place your child into a learning progression which helps the teacher know what your child may be ready to learn next to meet your child's educational needs.**

**For additional information and resources please visit the Florida Department of Education website.**



[Family Guide](#)

[More Resources](#)



## VPK Families for 2025-2026 School

Florida VPK supports the development of early literacy, executive functioning, and social emotional skills.

To learn more about Florida VPK, please click Family Portal below!

Florida **VPK**

To learn more about School Readiness, please click Family Portal below!

Florida  
School Readiness

You may apply for School Readiness services by Family Portal below. If you are eligible, you will be placed on the Wait List until enrollment takes place, depending on availability of funding.

**Apply Here**

**[Family Portal](#)**



# Supporting your child through early learning years with literacy

Early literacy development for children ages 0-5 focuses on building a foundation for future reading and writing skills through activities like talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing. These practices help children develop rich vocabulary, self-expression, and reading comprehension.

## Below are key elements that support early literacy development:

- **Talking**- Engaging in conversations with your child, describing what you see and do, and encouraging them to express themselves builds their vocabulary and communication skills.
- **Playing**- Engaging in play activities such as telling stories, pretending to read or using items or crafting supplies to make letters allows children to learn through fun and exploration.
- **Singing**- Singing songs and nursery rhymes exposes children to rhythm, repetition, and phonemic awareness (the ability to hear and manipulate sounds in words).
- **Reading**- Reading aloud to children regularly, using expressive voices and engaging with pictures, helps them connect print to language and builds a love of books.
- **Writing**- Providing opportunities for children to draw, scribble, and practice writing letters and words, even if they are just pretending to write, helps develop fine motor skills and print awareness.



“Providing a variety of learning experiences will help prepare children for kindergarten and to succeed in school.”

## Community Partners



Provides outstanding and responsive customer service, an excellent selection of materials and resources, and an inclusive environment that encourages personal & community betterment.

[Click Here](#)



LIBRARY SERVICES

To provide spaces where all are welcome to discover, create, and learn through innovative technology and library resources.

[Click Here](#)



If you have questions or would like to suggest content, please contact Child Care Resource and Referral Coordinator, Brenda Mayo at [b.mayo@elcph.org](mailto:b.mayo@elcph.org).