

Parent Dispatch

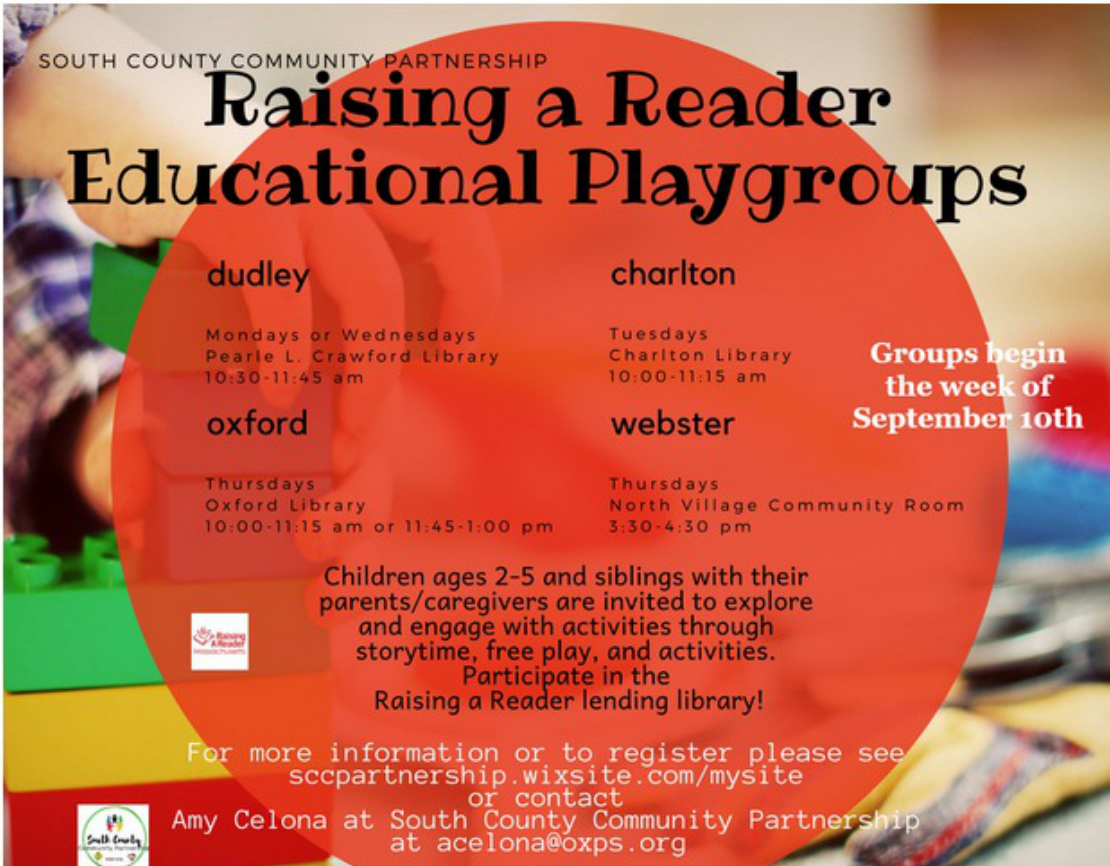
South County Community Partnership

September 2018

Registration is OPEN for Fall Raising a Reader Educational Playgroups!

Children ages 2 - 5 and siblings with their parents/caregivers are invited to explore and engage with storytime, free play, and activities! Participate in the Raising a Reader lending library. Program will be offered in Dudley, Charlton, Oxford, and Webster. For more information or to register, please visit www.sccpartnership.wixsite.com/mysite or contact Amy Celona at acelona@oxps.org.

Charlton group is currently closed; families may register for the waitlist while waiting for a spot to open



The flyer features a large red circle in the center with white text. The background is a collage of colorful pencils and paper. At the bottom left, there is a small logo for South County Community Partnership.

SOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Raising a Reader Educational Playgroups

dudley	charlton	Groups begin the week of September 10th
Mondays or Wednesdays Pearle L. Crawford Library 10:30-11:45 am	Tuesdays Charlton Library 10:00-11:15 am	
oxford	webster	
Thursdays Oxford Library 10:00-11:15 am or 11:45-1:00 pm	Thursdays North Village Community Room 3:30-4:30 pm	

Children ages 2-5 and siblings with their parents/caregivers are invited to explore and engage with activities through storytime, free play, and activities. Participate in the Raising a Reader lending library!

For more information or to register please see sccpartnership.wixsite.com/mysite or contact Amy Celona at South County Community Partnership at acelona@oxps.org

Upcoming Events



Grandparent/Grandchild Storytime

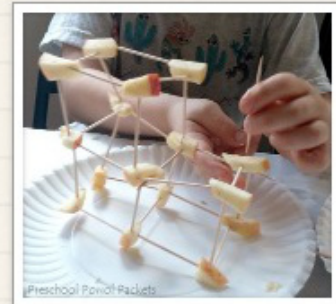
Grandparents and grandchildren, join us on **Wednesday, September 19th from 10:00 - 11:00 am** at a special storytime to celebrate National Grandparents' Day, in Room C-20 at Chaffee Elementary School in Oxford. We will share a story and spend time engaging in free exploration of activities for children ages 2-5. Registration is open to families of all towns and is required as space is limited! Please email acelona@oxps.org for registration or additional information.

Apple STEAM Workshop

Join us for a STEAM Workshop at Chaffee Elementary in Room C-20 on **Monday, September 24th 10:00 - 11:00 am**

September's STEAM Theme is APPLES!

MESSY STEAM-related activities are geared towards families of children ages 2-5 from all towns and registration is required as space is limited! Please email acelona@oxps.org for registration or additional information.



**Setting Limits
with Love -
Talking is
Teaching**

Young children depend on their



**Find Great
Resources on
our FRC
Pinterest Page!**

Find fine motor activities,



**Growing
readers!
Sharing
Wordless
Picture Books -**

parents and caregivers to provide them with a stable and loving environment so they can learn and grow. An important way that parents and caregivers can help their young children feel safe and secure is by participating in activities with them like talking, reading and singing every day. These nurturing activities build young children's brains, and help parents and caregivers feel more connected to their children, too.

Although it may sound strange, setting limits is another important way to establish a loving environment for young children. Setting limits is a way of letting your child know that you care for them and want to protect them. When parents and caregivers set limits, they encourage their children's healthy social-emotional development by teaching them the skills they need to resolve conflict, treat others with care, and manage their emotions. These early social-emotional skills help children do better in school, build positive relationships with others, and stay safe and healthy as they grow up.

So how can parents and caregivers set limits for young babies and toddlers?

The first step: Establish comforting routines

Routines help babies and young toddlers know what to expect every day so that they can focus on learning and growing. During the first few weeks of life, it's best to follow your baby's lead. But as your baby adjusts to the world outside the womb, you can gradually establish a regular schedule for your baby's sleep, play and meal times every day. And because every child is different, pay attention to your baby's

science experiments, sensory fun, and more at our Family Resource Center's Pinterest page! Visit <https://www.pinterest.com/KDCFR/> for lots of fantastic activities to do at home!

Reading Rockets

Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension and an increased awareness of how stories are structured.

Wordless picture books are told entirely through their illustrations — they are books without words, or sometimes just a few words. Sharing wordless books with a child provides an opportunity for literacy-rich conversations. Each "reader" listens and speaks, and creates their own story in their own words. Sharing wordless books also reinforces the idea that, in many books, the story and the pictures are connected. Elementary-aged students often enjoy writing down their original story to accompany a wordless book.

Here are a few tips for sharing wordless picture books with a child:

- Recognize that there are no "right" or "wrong" ways to read a wordless book. One of the wonderful benefits of using wordless books is how each child creates his own story (or stories!) from the same pictures.
- Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book's title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story.
- Take a "picture walk" through the pages of the book. Enjoy the illustrations, which are often rich with detail. Look carefully at the expressions on characters' faces, the

patterns and then try to stick to the schedule that works for them.

Daily reminder: Take care of yourself

The more responsive a parent or caregiver is to a baby's needs, the more secure that baby feels. But all parents and caregivers feel stressed out by a child's cries or tantrums sometimes. If you begin to feel anxious or angry, place your child in a safe place like their crib, and give yourself a break. A short walk around the house, a few deep breaths, and even trading places with another parent or caregiver can give you the time you need to calm down and recharge. Take care of you, too!

"Do as I do": Modeling positive behavior

Young children learn by watching the parents and caregivers in their lives. The best way to show a young child how you want them to behave is to praise good behavior, and to act out positive ways to solve problems, take turns, and cooperate. As your toddler gets older, talk together about appropriate and inappropriate ways to respond to things they don't like.

Learning about your child's development

Here are some basic age-appropriate ways that you can set limits for your child:

Birth to 9 months old

- Consistency is important. When parents respond consistently to their babies' cries for loving attention or care, babies learn about the consequences of their actions and that when they need help, they'll get it. Respond consistently to

setting and the use of color. Talk to each other about what you see. These conversations will enrich the storytelling.

- Enjoy the pictures and point out a few things, but don't worry too much about telling a story yet. Just enjoy the pictures and get a sense of what the book is about.
- Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some great storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Ham it up! Have characters use different voices, add sound effects and use interesting words in your version of the book.
- Encourage your child to "read" you the book with his story. Focus on the words your child uses when he tells the story. Help your child expand his sentences or thoughts by encouraging him to add information from the illustration's details. One way to encourage more details is by asking "W" questions: Who? Where? When? Why?
- Finish your wordless book sharing by asking a few simple questions: What pictures helped you tell the story? What was your favorite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in your story?

Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension — and an increased awareness of how stories are "built," as the storyteller often uses a beginning, middle, end format. For a book with few words,

your baby's cries, and make sure other caregivers are just as responsive.

- Spend quality time with your baby. Talking, reading and singing with your baby every day helps build a trusting relationship with you, and promotes healthy brain growth.
- Follow their lead. By watching your baby closely, you will learn what they are trying to tell you, and how to make them feel happy and secure.

9 months to 18 months old

- Set consistent limits. Help your baby enter toddlerhood by encouraging their natural curiosity and providing safe objects and places they can explore. Routine is important for older babies, too, so provide consistent meal times and bed times.
- Encourage independence. Older babies are interested in feeding themselves, and in crawling or walking around their environments. Be ready for them to make a mess with their food—these messes help them learn! Give them small bits of food they can play with and that clean up easily.

18 months to 24 months

- Pick your battles. Toddlers at this age may want to do more things on their own, but may still need your help for some activities. Encourage them to try more things on their own, and reserve a firm but calm "no" for things that may be harmful.
- Let them make safe choices. As toddlers learn how to communicate, they

you'll be surprised at all the talking you will do, and all the fun you'll have!

From

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/sharing-wordless-picture-books>

Visit

<http://www.readingrockets.org/booklists/our-favorite-wordless-picture-books> for a list of favorite wordless books.

may be more interested in picking out their own clothes or food. Offer them "either/or" choices, so they feel more in control.


- Tantrums are typical! Routines can help you avoid tantrums, but not all of them. Use diversion and play to distract toddlers from tantrums, or remove them quickly and calmly from the situation until they can calm down. If possible, stay with your child during a tantrum and stay away from punishment—young toddlers learn how to manage their emotions better if you use the time after a tantrum to talk briefly about what happened and how to calm down in the future.

24 months to 36 months

- Encourage words to express feelings. Older toddlers are beginning to use more words, so you can take this opportunity to help your child find the words to express what they're feeling and thinking.
- Explain consequences. As your child gets older, you can help them think about the consequences of their actions so they can make better choices.
- Keep meal times stress-free. Toddlers can be picky, and this can cause a lot of stress at meal times. Set simple rules about appropriate ways to act during meals, but let your child choose how much to eat.

Want to learn more about how to set firm but loving limits?

Check out "Abuelita: Grandma Sets Limits With Love" at



BRAIN BUILDING IN PROGRESS

BUILDING Little Hands to Build Brains

Little hands need to be strong to hold writing tools and form letters clearly. Here's how to build that strength while turning everyday moments into Brain Building moments, too!

Build writing muscles with a "workout."

- Squeeze balls of play dough.
- Count how many "reps" you both can do.

Snap! Crumple! Pop!
Make some noise while you build muscles.

- Little hands love to snap green beans or shell peas.
- Tear and crumple different kinds of paper.
- Pop the bubble wrap that comes in a package.
- Talk about all the different sounds you've made and how noisy your hands can be.

Have cutting edge fun.
Cutting paper, play dough, foam, fabric or other materials (with child-sized safety scissors) strengthens hand muscles and develops hand-eye coordination.

- Start by practicing opening and closing the scissors.
- Ask how it feels to cut a piece of paper.
- Does it feel different from cutting play dough or foam?

Follow a scissor trail!
Draw straight lines, swirly paths or zig-zaggy trails and cut along them with scissors. Build up to more complicated trails or patterns or thicker papers such as grocery bags or cereal boxes.

Tell us how you used these ideas or share some of your own at: [/BrainBuildingInProgress](https://www.facebook.com/BrainBuildingInProgress)

BrainBuildingInProgress.org

eecc Department of Early Education and Care

United Way



South County Community Partnership

 Facebook  @sccp_oxford

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