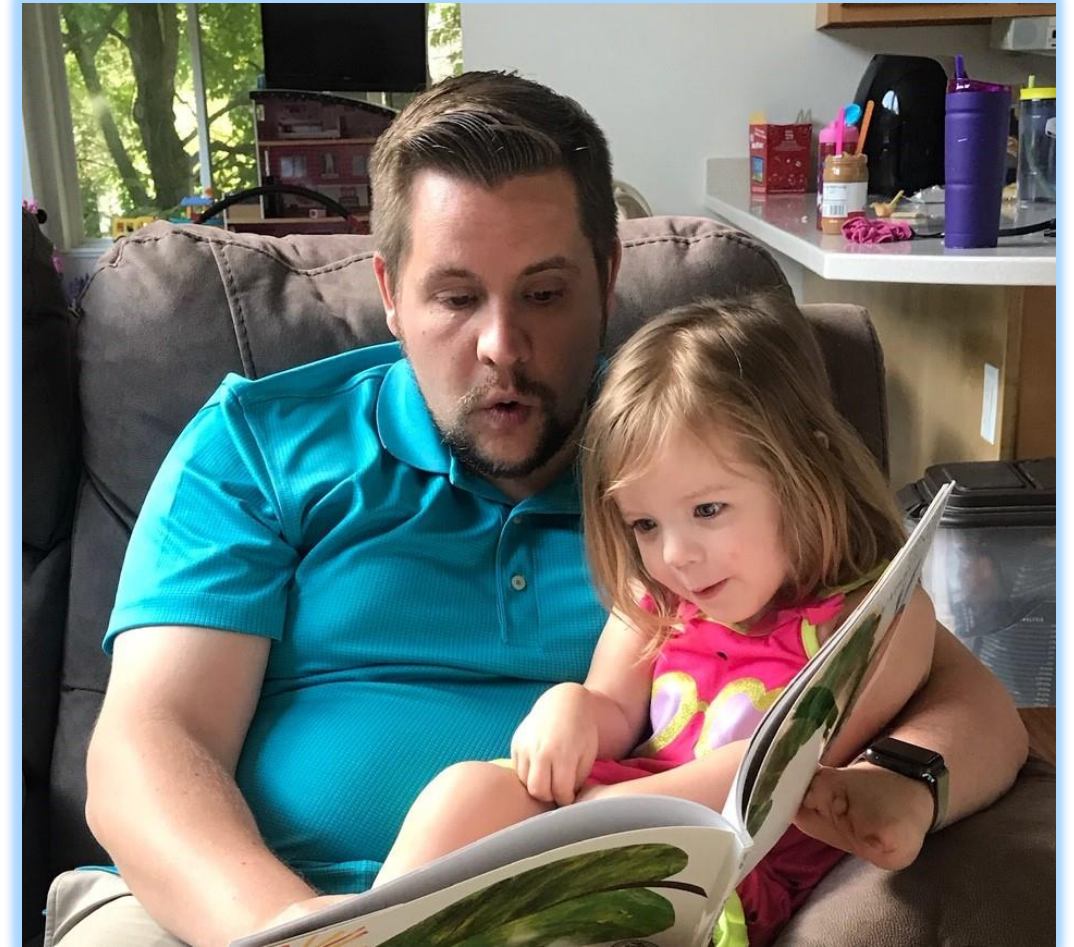




A Bit of History: How We Got to Where We Are

Needs of Benzie County Children

- 40% of children NOT kindergarten ready
- 50% of Michigan's 3rd graders NOT reading at grade level
- Brain neuron development from reading
- 37% of Benzie County residents at ALICE or below poverty level



Our Partners

Benzonia Public Library
Benzie Shores District Library
Darcy Public Library
Betsie Valley District Library

Head Start & Early Head Start
Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital
5toOne Playgroups: Betsie Valley,
Lake Ann, Grow Benzie

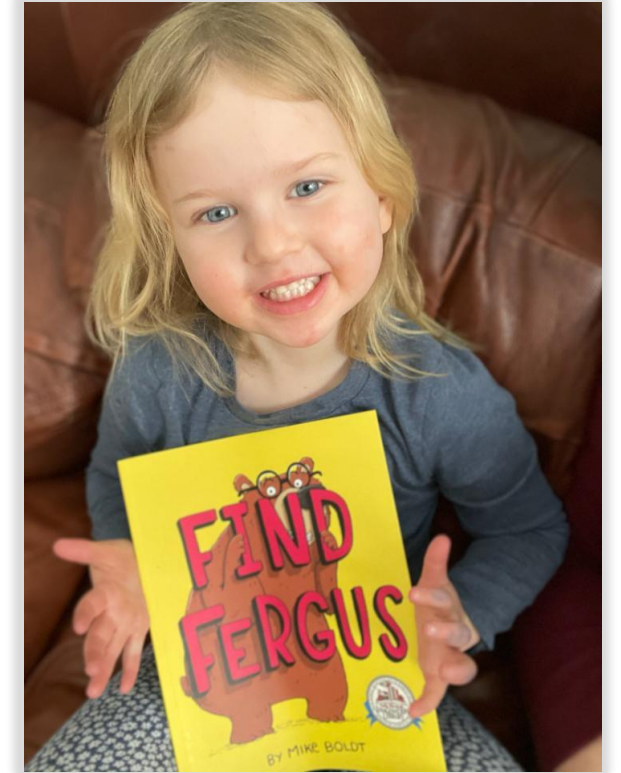
St. Phillips Baby Pantry
Benzie Area Christian Neighbors
Cognition Science Discovery Center
Dept of Public Health--WIC



Books & Selection



- Love of reading and learning
- Regard for diversity of people, their roles, culture, and environment
- Promotion of self-esteem and confidence
- Appreciation of art and aesthetics
- Every child receives two bilingual books each year



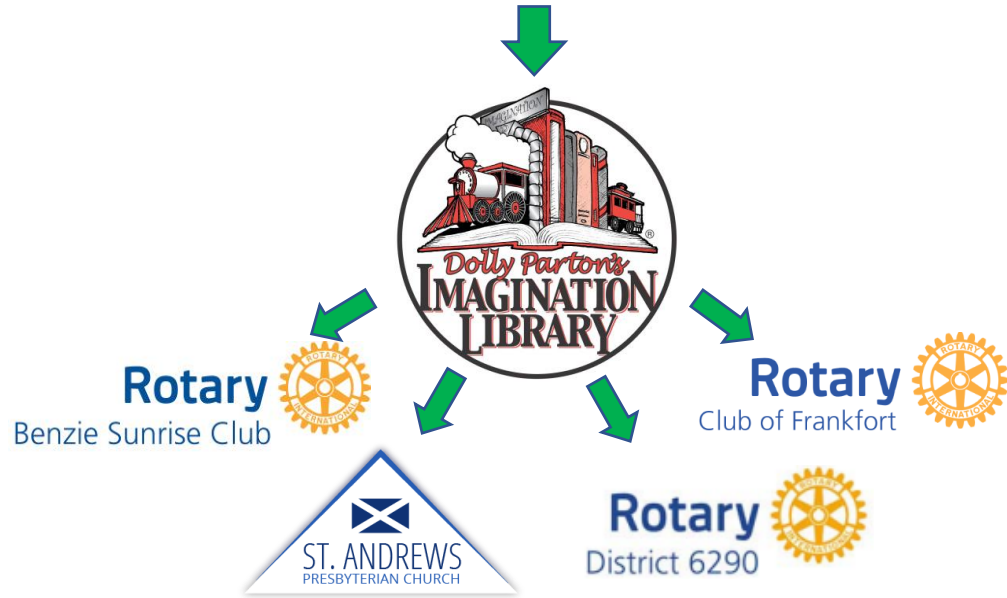
**460 Currently Enrolled
225 Graduated
5270 Total Books**

"Thank you so much for forwarding our application. We have enjoyed the program so very much with our older son who turns 5 in September. The excitement he gets when he opens the mailbox and pulls out his new book, addressed to him, is priceless! Thank you so much!"

--Graydon & Christina



Children kindergarten-ready

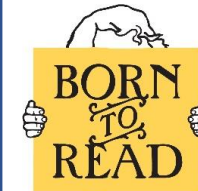


Our Partners

Benzonia Public Library
Benzie Shores District Library
Darcy Public Library
Betsie Valley District Library
Cognition Science & Discovery Center
St Philips & Advent Lutheran Baby
Pantries

Head Start & Early Head Start
Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital
5toOne Playgroups: Betsie Valley,
Lake Ann, Grow Benzie
Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN)
Benzie-Leelanau District Health - WIC

Benzie County
Human Services Collaborative's
o-6 Work Group



Head Start &
Early Head Start



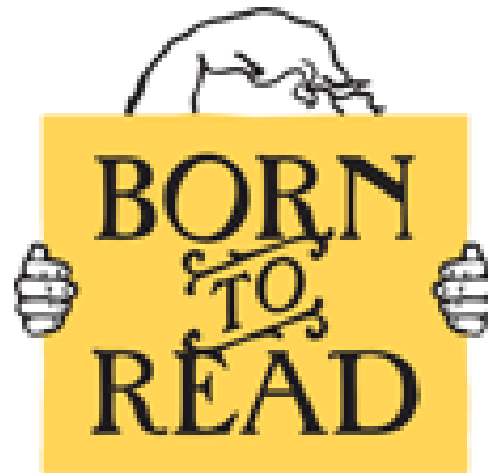


Mission of the Network

Provide communication and support for early childhood reading organizations by acting as a communication pipeline among all.

Collaboratively provide services and resources focusing on early childhood development from birth through reading, positive interactions, and language development.

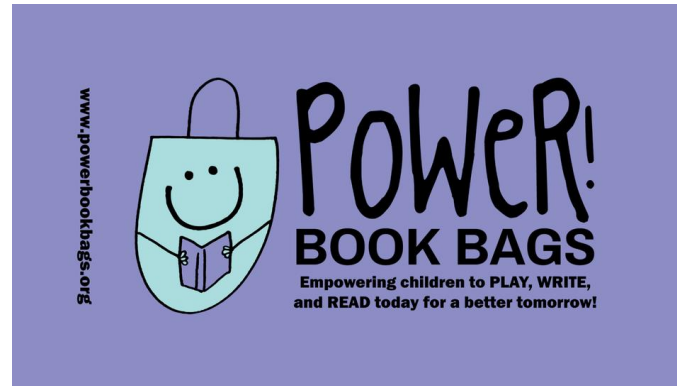
Traverse Bay Sunrise
Rotary
Foundation



1. Welcome Baby Packet
2. Welcome book
3. Library tote
4. Ambassador training
5. Ambassadors at sites



Literacy Alliance of Northwest Michigan

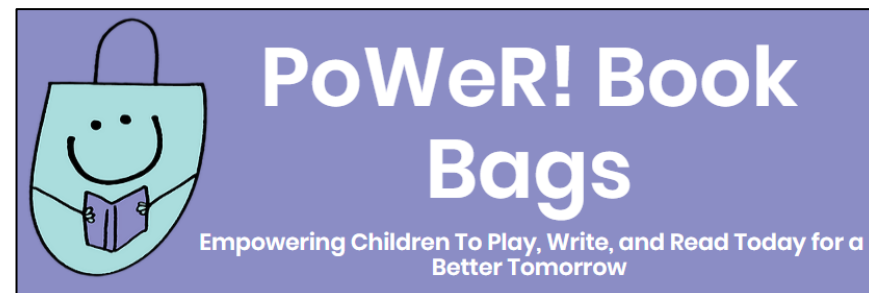


United Way of
Northwest Michigan





53%
of Benzie County
children registered
for DPIL
December-June
were in WIC



If you read just **one** book a day to your child, they will have been read **1825** books by their 5th birthday.

Every Day Counts.
Every Book Counts.



Campaign to get information to pediatrician offices in NW Michigan



- Integrates reading into pediatric visits
- Advises families on importance of reading
- Share books that are catalyst to healthy development
- Teach parents how to hold book and engage child
- Parents gain deeper understanding

Brain imaging studies:
Increased development in regions of brain

Overall increase in number of words & conversation between families & young children



Potential to reach 90% of children in US



Half of children served are from low-income families

Parents reminded they are their child's first & most important teacher

TOO SMALL TO FAIL

[HOME](#)[MISSION](#)[BLOG](#)[NEWSROOM](#)[VIDEO](#)[PARENTS & CAREGIVERS](#)[COMMUNITY](#)[EN ESPAÑOL](#)[SEARCH](#)

www.toosmalltofail.org

**Back in the Habit: New
Routines to Kick-Off the
School Year**



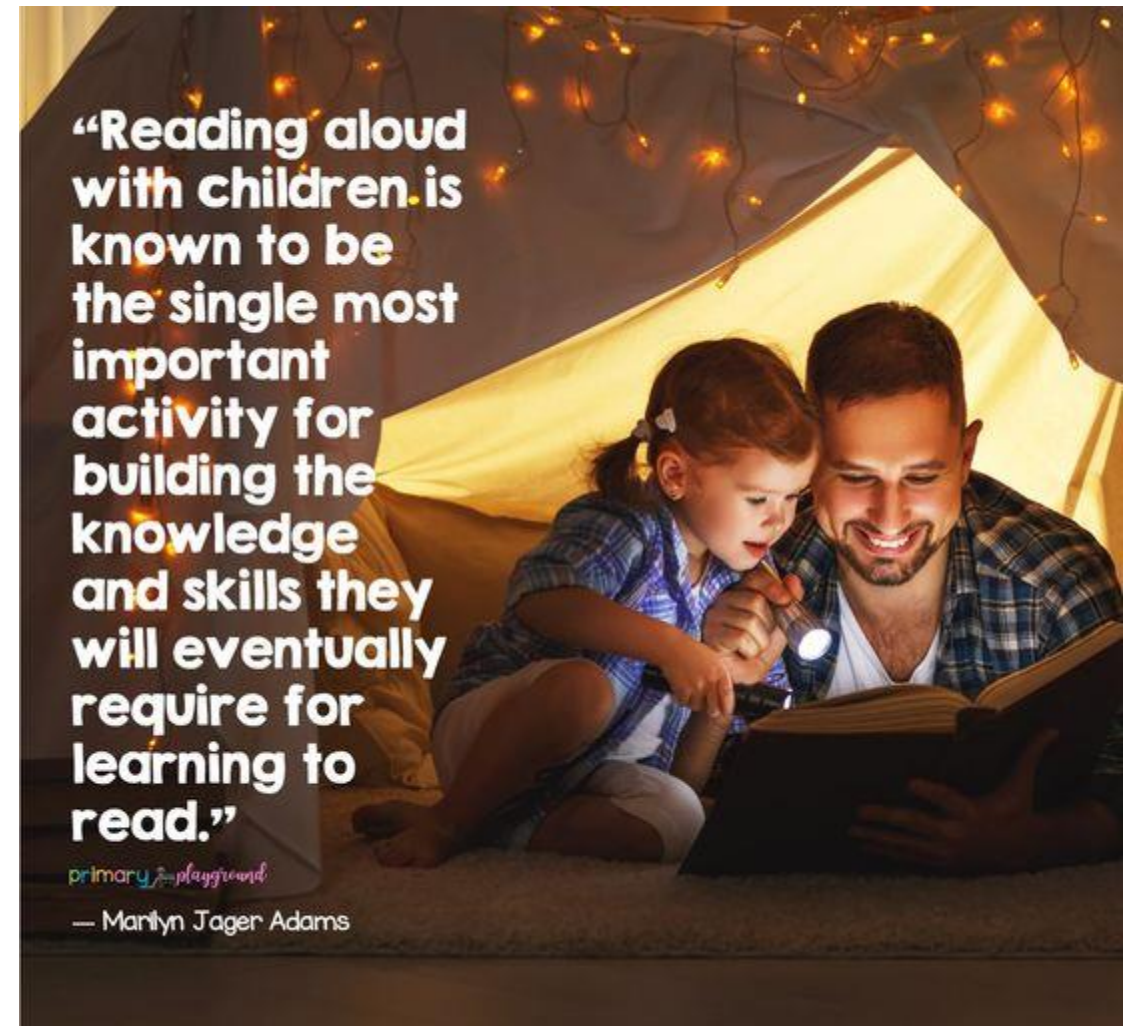
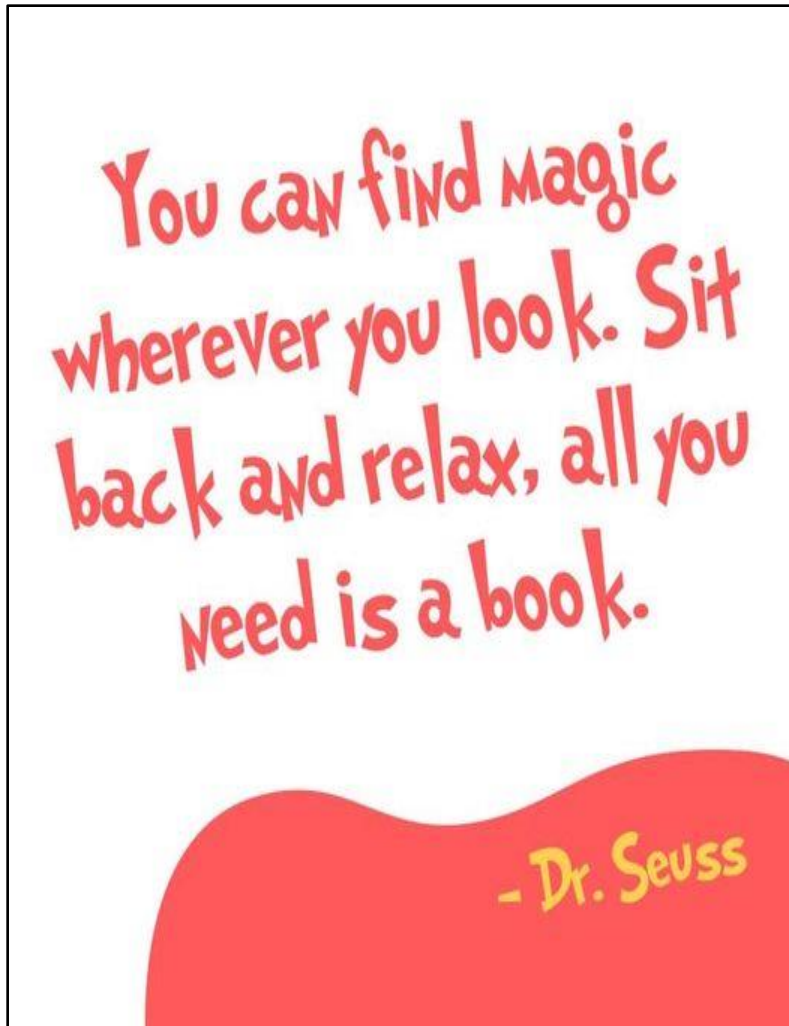
Let's Talk About Math!

**4 Things to Know About Your
Child's Social-Emotional
Development**

Talking is Teaching

- Great Start Collaborative & United Way of Northwest Michigan
- Tote bags at Benzie County Baby Pantries
- Environmental prompts
 - Banks: Let's Talk About Numbers
 - Libraries: Let's Talk About Books
 - Schools: Let's Talk About Kindness
 - Grow Benzie: Let's Talk About Community
 - Cognition: Let's Talk About Play
 - Coming soon: Benzie Bus Wrap
- Trusted Messenger training has been completed by
 - Head Start & Early Head Start staff
 - Library directors
 - Baby pantry directors
 - Task force members





Questions?