

Library News

By Lynda Mullins
The school year is winding down, and this means the library is gearing up to help your kids stay busy and productive during the summer months. We have lots to offer in the way of reading materials, computer access and Summer Reading Program activities. If you've been meaning to bring your child to the library, now is the time to start.

The Summer Reading Program is an excellent way to keep your kids interested in books during the summer. By combining programs and incentives to reward reading, kids have fun and realize that reading is itself a fun. The theme for the program this year is "It's About Time!" I'm busy planning programs and activities around the theme now, and I'm sure we will have lots of fun

things to offer this summer. Look for sign up information at the library soon.

We also have a new opportunity for new and expectant mothers in the area. We are working with the health department to distribute library and infant information, along with a free book for baby to these women. We hope this program will help parents realize the importance of reading to their babies and small children and show them that the library is here to help them.

Story Time is another opportunity to introduce young children to books and the library. Every Tuesday at 1:00 our story time group comes together to play, listen to stories, make simple crafts, and occasionally watch a short video. All preschool age chil-

dren are invited to join us.

Our new children's books have arrived and many are now on the shelves. These one hundred new books were donated by the Brownstone Book Fund, a wonderful non-profit organization in New York. Hurry in and check out some of the titles below!

Earnings! by Judith Viorst.

What's a young girl to do when her parents refuse to let her have her car pierced? She can beg, she can argue, she can swear that - if only they will say yes - she'll be nice to her little brother. And whether or not she persuades them, she can find herself in this true and funny tale of a persistent girl determined to have what she wants and needs; beautiful, glorious earnings for pierced cars.

Daddy Could I Have An Elephant? by Jake Wolf.

"Daddy," says Tony "I need a pet." But much to his father's chagrin, Tony has some exotic ideas about what a pet should be. Maybe an elephant, or a python or dolphin. Father and son might not agree, but then Tony has an idea that just might work...

Pigs On A Blanket - Fun with math and time by Amy Axelrod, Mr. Pig. Mrs. Pig and the piglets are hot, hot, hot and they really want to go to the beach. But time is running out for the pigs! Will they be able to count the seconds, minutes and hours and enjoy a swim in the ocean?

Jazzbo Goes to School by Matt Novak.

Momma says its time to look for a school for Jazzbo. But Jazzbo says he does not need to go to school. He already knows a lot!

It takes a very special teacher to show Jazzbo that there is a school just right for him, a school that Jazzbo needs - and one that needs him too!

The Family Room

By Dr. Don Whitehead

Money May Be Used to Control Another

As a marriage counselor I often see only one member of the couple who comes for help. The other partner refuses to acknowledge his part in the problem. This was the case when Vera came to see me. (All characters are fictitious.)

I'm not happy in our marriage," was one of the first things Vera told me. "Norm says I should be. He tells me that any problems are just in my head. Maybe he's right. That's why I came to counseling. If my thinking is messed up, I want you to tell me."

Norm and Vera had been married for fifteen years and had three sons. Norm worked in a local factory, while Vera worked part-time at school so that she could be home when her children were. "That is OK with me," Vera said. "I would rather be home with the boys. What bothers me is Norm's attitude about our money."

"Money is often a source of conflict for married couples," I told Vera. "What is your and Norm's conflict about it?"

"According to Norm the money is his because he earns it," Vera said an-

grily. "I give him my paycheck and he deposits it in his account. My name is not even on the account. My name is not on the title to either of our cars. He even considers the money I earn as his. He says the man is supposed to make the financial decisions for the family."

"How did Norm come to this conclusion?" I wanted to know.

"That is the way his parents did it," Vera answered. "His mom did not work outside the home, and his father considered all the money to be his. Norm's mom never made a financial decision in her life. When her husband died, Norm took over managing her money because she didn't know how to do it. Norm also quotes the Bible to me, reminding me that the man is the head of the household and I am supposed to do what he says."

"What do you do when you need money?" I asked Vera.

"I have to ask Norm for every penny I need," she said angrily. "I am just like one of the kids, having to ask for money. When I go to the grocery, he goes over the receipt to make sure

I haven't spent too much. Last week he criticized me for buying the wrong kind of peanut butter because he thought it was too expensive."

"It sounds to me as if Norm uses money as a means of control," I told Vera. "How serious have your disagreements become?"

"I once threatened to leave him, but he told me he would cut me off without a penny," Vera answered. "He said the court would give him everything because he was the one who had paid for it. He is probably right. I cannot leave because I would have nothing."

"Before you leave, Vera, I recommend that you talk to an attorney," I suggested. "You may find that Norm is not telling you the whole truth about what the court would decide."

"I really don't want to leave," Vera said sadly. "I just want Norm to see it as our money instead of his money. That is not asking too much, is it?"

"No, I think that is the fair way to look at it," I agreed with Vera. "But whether you will ever get Norm to see it that way is another question."

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