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Dear Harford County Daycare Provider,

I would like to introduce you to **Opening the Gift**, Harford County Public Library's *free* story time program for *licensed home day care providers and the children in their care*. We are excited about this opportunity to share books, rhymes, puppets, and stories once a month during the next program year (September-May) *at your location*, and encourage you to express your interest in the program by returning a completed application.

Your participation in **Opening the Gift** may also be approved for training as required by the Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care; to qualify for credit, you must attend one of the orientation sessions to be held in late summer, actively participate in the **Opening the Gift** home visits throughout the year, and demonstrate a brief presentation of a picture book and a story enhancement (fingerplay, song, flannelboard, puppet, etc) during one of our final sessions. **More information about this will be available once you become a participant in the program.**

Current budget restrictions make it difficult to serve all of the day care providers who are interested in the **Opening the Gift** service. Participation is usually limited to one year, and our guidelines indicate that you must be a **licensed day care provider with at least four preschool-aged children in attendance at the story time visits**. If you do not have the required number, you may combine with another day care provider in your area, or you may ask friends and/or neighbors with preschool aged children to join you and your children, as long as they will be available to attend on a **regular** basis.

If you would like to include this fun, thematic story time in your daycare plans, please return a completed application; **a limited number of visits are available, so please send your application in right away for priority consideration!**

If you have any questions, please call me at 410-638-3151, Ext. 2279. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely yours,

Melinda Chase

Opening the Gift Librarian

1221-A Brass Mill Road ■ Belcamp, Maryland 21017

410-273-5600 ■ Balto.Metro 410-565-6761 ■ 410-838-3749 ■ TDD: 410-838-3371 ■ FAX: 410-273-5606

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