



Harford County
Public Library

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Dear Harford County Family Child Care Provider,

Welcome to the *Opening the Gift – Preschool Traveling Library!*

The ***Opening the Gift – Preschool Traveling Library*** program is a *free* service offered to licensed family child care homes in Harford County. Since 1979, hundreds of family child care providers and thousands of children have participated in the program.

From October to May, the Early Literacy Specialist schedules story time visits to licensed home child care settings. We are excited about this opportunity to share books, rhymes, puppets, and music in a 45-minute program once a month during the next program year (October-May) *at your location*. By participating in the sessions, you as the caregiver will become acquainted with library materials and story time activities that can be used to enrich your child care experience,

Your participation in the ***Opening the Gift – Preschool Traveling Library*** may also be approved for training as required by the Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care (CKO-30714); 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 – Preschool Traveling Library*** 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.**

There are limited spaces for this popular program, because of this, we give priority consideration to child care providers who have never received this service. Our guidelines indicate that you must be a licensed child 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 child care provider in your area, or you may ask friends and/or neighbors with preschool aged children (ages 2-4) 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, interactive story time in your child care plans, please go to <https://forms.office.com/r/p97S5ndf4D> to access the online application; a limited number of spaces are available, and for best consideration, please complete the online application by June 15. If you have any questions, please call the Bel Air Branch at 410-638-3151 and ask for the Early Literacy Specialist. We look forward to hearing from you!