Dear Harford County Daycare Provider,

We 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 (October-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 (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 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 the day care providers who are interested in the Opening the Gift service. Priority consideration goes to those day care providers who have never received this service. 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 (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, thematic story time in your daycare plans, please return a completed application; a limited number of spaces are available, so please send your application in right away for consideration!

If you have any questions, please call the Bel Air Branch at 410-638-3151 and ask for the Opening the Gift librarian. We look forward to hearing from you!