



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!