

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Denise Galarraga, 541-774-6401

Ready to Read Grant Awarded to Jackson County Library Services

Jackson County Library Services has received a \$28,000 grant to improve public library services to children. The Ready to Read Grant funds early literacy programming, such as Babies in the Library, and enhanced Summer Reading programs throughout Jackson County libraries.

The Ready to Read Grant was established by the State Legislature in 1993 to assist local libraries in helping to achieve the Oregon Benchmarks for childhood learning and development. This annual grant, funded by the General Fund of the State of Oregon, is administered by the State Library. Oregon libraries may use these funds for the statewide summer reading program for children ages 0-14 and early literacy services for children ages 0-5.

The impact of the Ready to Read Grant program is measured annually by the percentage of libraries adopting "best practices" in their services to children. The State Library has identified three best practices in youth services at public libraries: summer reading programs, training for parents and childcare providers in research-based early literacy curriculums, and outreach to children and teens who face barriers getting to the library. Jackson County libraries provide early literacy programming, such as Babies and Wobblers in the Library, programming for Summer Reading, purchases of books and puppets for Outreach to Childcare, and purchase of children's books for the collection.

"The research is clear that children become good readers by being turned on to the enjoyment of books, a process that begins at birth," said State Librarian Jim Scheppeke. "With our free books and preschool storytime programs, public libraries in nearly every Oregon community have made this their priority—to play a big part in having every Oregon child become a proficient reader."



JACKSON COUNTY
Library Services

LIBRARY DIRECTOR: DENISE GALARRAGA

Telephone: 541-774-8679
205 South Central Avenue
Medford, Oregon 97501