



**Raising  
A Reader**

Aspen to Parachute

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## October Newsletter 2014

### Literacy Starts with Language Development

Literacy begins with communication between a parent and a child. It starts at birth when a parent reacts to the babbling of a child in a positive way, and the child responds to the parent in kind. It's what Harvard researchers call "serve and return." According to Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin: "The active ingredient that decides how the brain is shaped is children's engagement in relationship with others around them - relationships with people." In its summary of recent research on reading with young children, the New York Times (October 12) concludes that the primary objective in reading to our children "is behavior that sparks a conversation."

Raising A Reader Aspen to Parachute has been serving the community for 10 years. People know us through our highly visible book bags. But, ultimately, the importance of our work is reflected more accurately in the 48 parent sessions we facilitated last year for 1,200 parents. Books launch conversations between parents and their children, a process that is critical to the child's language and brain development. The more frequent and deep the engagement, the better chance the child has for academic and life success. Best of all, as we love to tell parents, reading together is fun!

Rick Blauvelt, Executive Director



### Using Our Libraries, by Program Coordinator Mary Margaret Hesse

As a mother of young children, I am keenly aware that the time I have to read with them is precious and fleeting. They are developing their own interests, and whether they become adults who love to read is largely dependent on the example we set for them now. We go to the library every week on the same day. Checking out our books on the same day each week makes it easy to track due dates, and I can log into my library account to renew items online.

The Garfield County Public Library District ([gcpld.org](http://gcpld.org)) has online "Book Lists" where I save book titles into customized lists such as "Books for Kids" or "Books for Me." I find quality children's books on websites such as that of the American Library Association (visit "Building a Home Library" at <http://www.cbcbooks.org/building-a-home-library/>) and "Newberry Medal Winners" (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newbe>

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Carlo's at the ELC in Aspen launching his Red Book Bags

### Spanish Book Picks

#### LA LLAMA LLAMA ROJO PIJAMA-

La pequeña llama con rojas pijamas es puesta a dormir por mama llama pero ella inmediatamente después comienza a preocuparse por que mama se va. Su voz suave se convierte en gritos desesperados, pero Mama Llama regresa a consolar a la

[rywinners/medalwinners](#)). Then I place those books on hold via the library's web site and pick them up on our library day.

Reading a wide variety of excellent books broadens the world for my children. Check out the Pitkin County Library and Basalt Regional Library websites for similar resources.



### Red Bag Launch at the ELC in Aspen, by Program Coordinator Danika Davis

Robin at the Aspen Early Learning Center used the title, David's Drawing, from one of the Raising A Reader book bags to creatively launch our Red Book Bag program. Here's how she did it:

1. Robin read the book to the class. In the story, David draws a tall brown tree, and then one by one his classmates add to his picture with their own ideas - a rainbow, grass, leaves, dogs and people - to complete the drawing.

2. Robin's class then reenacted the story using a large piece of paper. The first child drew a big, tall tree. Then, one by one each child added his or her own idea to create a class picture.

This was a wonderful example of a simple and engaging way to use a Raising A Reader book in the classroom (and at home!). Projects like this help children relate story ideas to real life by talking about the seasons, things they see in their back yards and experiences on the playground. Robin then sent each child home with his or her first weekly book bag and a great story to tell parents about the fun of books. **THANK YOU ROBIN!**



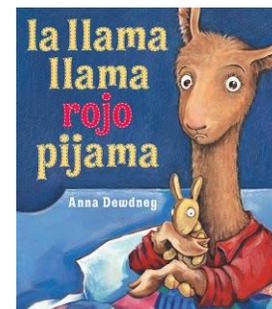
### Stand Out Volunteer Janelle Rhoton

Janelle has been reading for Lesley Gorman's preschoolers at Kid's Corner in Glenwood Springs for years now. She has built a strong relationship with the children, and they eagerly look forward to her weekly visits. Here are some testimonials straight from the children's mouths:

*She's kind and lovely, I like her because she reads stories.* - Oscar

pequeña llama y a explicarle porque no debe de preocuparse.

Baby llama is tucked into bed by his mama. He starts worrying when Mama goes downstairs and his soft whimpers turn to hollers. Just in time Mama returns to set things right and comfort Baby llama.



### EL CONEJITO KNUFFLE-

Trixie pierde su conejito en una lavandería y pasa por un muy mal rato tratando de explicar a su padre q ha perdido su conejito knuffle. Después intentar encontrarlo varias veces Papa encuentra el conejito y Trixie dice sus primeras palabras.

Trixie loses her Knuffle Bunny at the Laundromat and has a hard time trying to tell her Dad that Knuffle Bunny is missing. After several attempts, Dad finds Knuffle Bunny and Trixie says her first words.



*We give her more and more books to read. I love Miss Janelle because she's very nice. She loves to read books to us. - Elliot*  
*She's nice and always reads books to us. She lets some of us sit on her lap. -- Hayden*  
*She's sweet and it's nice to see her a lot and I can because she lives next to me. - Nolah*  
*She's friendly, she always reads books. She loves me. - Anabelle.*

**Congratulations Janelle on being our Volunteer of the quarter!**



## **Leadership Council**

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Please check out our web site at [www.rar4kids.org](http://www.rar4kids.org) or join us on [Facebook](#). And, of course, we'd love to hear from you in person.

Rick Blauvelt - Executive Director; Danika Davis - Program Coordinator; Mary Margaret Hesse-Program Coordinator; Lorena Silva - Bilingual Program Coordinator; Tori Thompson - Volunteer Coordinator

If you wish to unsubscribe to our news letter, please e-mail: [unsubscribe@rar4kids.org](mailto:unsubscribe@rar4kids.org)

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