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**September 2010**  
National Literacy Month

#### Events

##### [Playgroups are back!](#)

Playgroups follow the ACUSD calendar and are offered on the following days:

Mondays-Camanche  
Tuesdays-Jackson  
Wednesdays-Ione  
Thursdays-Pine Grove

##### [Free Dental Screening & Fluoride Varnishing](#)

For all children 0-5 who live in Amador County.

##### For providers:

##### [California Preschool Instructional Network Workshop:](#)

Introducing *The California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 1*

For more listings, please visit our [Calendar](#).



## Ready...Set...Grow!

Volume 1

### News & Announcements

#### Read Early, Read Often Early literacy and school success

Reading to children gives them the opportunity to explore exciting new worlds and learn about people and places. It also creates an appreciation for the fun and educational value books offer, allowing children to expand their imagination. Parents and caregivers can build a foundation for literacy and strengthen the bond with their children by reading to them starting at an early age. Research shows that children whose parents read to them tend to become stronger readers and perform better in school.



Below you will find some quick tips on how to help build language and literacy skills. The reminders are from [Reading Rockets](#), a literacy project funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education.

##### Babies:

- Choose baby-friendly books made of cloth, soft plastic or "board books"
- Develop a daily routine and make reading a part of it
- Keep books where baby can reach them
- Read, sing, repeat - read favorite stories and sing favorite songs over and over again
- Talk with your baby-all day long!

##### Toddlers:

- Keep reading short, simple and often

### Tip of the Month

First 5 Amador encourages families to designate a special place in their home for a family library.

Families can use anything from a bookcase to a decorated cardboard box. Parents can help their children arrange the books in some order - favorite books, books about animals - any method that will help them find the books that they are looking for.

To help establish home libraries, First 5 Amador is going to hold a drawing for all new Imagination Library registrations received during the month of September. Five lucky children will receive a set of Imagination Library bookends. Signing up is easy. Simply [click here!](#)

- Don't expect your toddler to sit still for a book
- Encourage play that involves naming, describing and communicating
- Ask questions and take time to listen to your toddler's answers
- Recite rhymes and sing songs

### Preschoolers:

- Read together every day
- Be interactive and read with your fun voice
- Point out print everywhere and work on writing too
- Put the book away for a while if your child loses interest
- Talk to a professional if you have concerns about your child's development

The [Reading Rockets](#) website is a great resource for parents and providers. It is full of helpful strategies that help children learn how to read.

[Check it out today!](#)

## Program Spotlight

### Imagination Library

**Over 5,700 books distributed to Amador County children in the last year!**

September is National Literacy Month and it's also the first anniversary of the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Amador County. This free program provided 5,700 to over 750 children in the past year. All Amador County children are eligible from birth until their fifth birthday. After signing up, each child will receive one free book in the mail each month. That means that if a child is signed up at birth, they will receive 60 books - **for free!**



For more information and to sign up today [click here.](#)

First 5 Amador supports and designs programs for children 0-5 years old and their families.

For more information please visit our website:  
[www.first5amador.com](http://www.first5amador.com)  
 or call us at (209) 257-1092.

### Want to help?

Make a tax-deductible donation to help sustain the Imagination Library today! \$25 sponsors one child for an entire year -- they'll receive one free book in the mail each month!

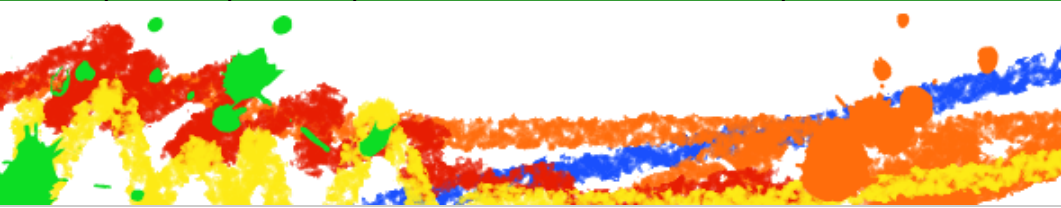
[I want to donate now!!](#)



**Amador County Residents:**  
 Do you know what the blue insert in your property tax bill is for?

[Click here to find out!](#)

**As a parent, you are your child's first & most important teacher!**



**Save  
\$\$**

Save money on books for your children--get them for free! Sign your child up today and start receiving one free book a month from the Imagination Library. This is a free program, available to all Amador County children 0-4 (from birth until their fifth birthday).

*All you have to do is read to your child!*

All new sign-ups during September 2010 will be entered in a drawing to win free Imagination Library bookends.  
For more information [click here.](#)

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