

# BOOKS FOR BABIES AND...YOU! PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING

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## Books for Babies and ...You!

The Books for Babies Education Committee provides every baby born in Billings Clinic Hospital and St. Vincent's Healthcare a touch-and-feel board book in a personalized "Books for Babies and...You! bag which also includes a booklet and bookmark telling the importance of reading; plus an Early Education Intervention brochure, Billings Public Library Books & Babies flyer, Billings Public Library story time magnet, Billings Public Library brochure, and information about Billings Junior Woman's Club. In 2018, 2,567 babies received a book.

Club members work with a catalog company that works with non-profits, to purchase specific touch-and-feel board books. Members attach labels with Club information to each book, and deliver them to the hospitals each month. Hospital staff and volunteers give the packets to new babies and their parents.

In 2018 we celebrated giving 25,000 Books to 25,000 Babies since this program started in September 2008. Members of our committee delivered newborn gifts to a new baby and his parents at each hospital as representatives of our 25,000<sup>th</sup> babies born. A celebration was held in the Community Room of Billings Public Library.

Our BJWC Tri-folds from each committee were displayed. Guests enjoyed checking each out and were amazed at all we do. Members enjoyed meeting and visiting with guests.

From the decorations to the table centerpieces, the buffet, our BJWC tri-folds, and our amazing Books for Babies Committee that put everything together, the room was a testament for all we do in our community.

Books and associated foods decorated the buffet of delicious foods. The food table was decorated with various books and delightful treats to match.

The Little Engine that Could author Watty Piper- a complete railroad train with cars made of peppers with cucumbers for the wheels and filled with cauliflower, carrots, tomatoes, broccoli, and celery.

The Gingerbread Boy author Paul Goldone – a plate of gingerbread boy cookies

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs author Judi Barrett – a crockpot filled with meatballs

Green Eggs and Ham author Dr. Seuss – green deviled eggs, ham & cr. cheese rollups

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish author Dr. Seuss – various colored fish crackers

Picnic author Emily Arnold McCully – sandwiches

The Popcorn Book author Tomie dePaola – various colored popcorn

Popcorn author Frank Ashe – various colored popcorn

The Very Hungry Caterpillar author Eric Carle

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie author Laura Joffe Numeroff - cookies

If You Give a Cat a Cupcake author Laura Joffe Numeroff – cupcakes

If You Give a Dog a Donut author Laura Joffe Numeroff – donuts

If You Give a Mouse a Brownie author Laura Joffe Numeroff – brownies

Everyone enjoyed the evening and comments from visitors were heart-warming.

### **Pre-School Screening**

Pre-School Screening is a Billings Public School program. The purpose of the screening is to provide an overall developmental check on a child, assist a parent in determining if their child is developing appropriately for his/her age and to locate children with potential of existing problems which may interfere with learning. Screening takes place four times a year and is for all children birth to five years of age who have not begun kindergarten and live within the Billings School District.

Areas assessed include language, vision, hearing, learning, health and social/emotional. Each child spends at least an hour being tested. At the end of their tests, they are led to table laden with books chosen by committee members. The children may choose a book of his/her choice to take home with them. This may be a child's first book all of his/her own. The children are very excited to find just the right book. Some find a book quickly and some take a long time checking each book to find the best one. Younger children who attend with the family are also given a book. Smiles are our reward, and knowing we have put a book in the hands of a child.

Our books are high quality and very appealing to little eyes. Cute story: We had one boy who spent a long time going through most of our books, page by page. Finally, after Mom "encouraged" him to make a choice, chose a book and left. When they got to the car, he decided he didn't want that one, so they came back, returned the book, and searched for another one that he liked better. First time we've ever had a return!!

### **ECI – Early Childhood Intervention**

Early Childhood Intervention is a system of supports and services designed to meet the specific needs of a family, and children up to 36 months old. They help a parent spot a potential learning, social, or physical concern. Trained individuals go into the home and work with the child and parent to support and determine the outcomes or changes wanted or needed. Each year we provide 35 My First Signs books to ECI for children with hearing problems.

### **NICU – Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**

At the request of staff in the NICU at each Billing hospital, we supply books for children during their stay in the NICU. The books are read to the babies by parents, grandparents, staff, volunteers, and others. The sound of a calm caring voice helps the infant progress.

### **Infusion Center**

Requested by hospital staff, books are provided to children and/or teens when they accompany a parent, grandparents, or someone who spends time at the infusion center. As dialysis can take several hours, this gives the child and patient something to 'occupy' the time. Quiet shared reading, discussions, or just keeping company helps everyone.

### **Community**

Our Books for Babies Committee also set up the BJWC Tri-folds at Billings Public Library. Visitors who attended our earlier Open House commented that the tri-folds should be displayed somewhere the community would have the opportunity to discover all our

GFWC/Billings Junior Woman's Club accomplishes throughout our community. Working with library personnel and with permission from Billings Public Library, the Tri-folds were displayed on the first floor near the Children's Section for two weeks. Many positive responses were received from people visiting the display.

Several of our members volunteer at Billings Public Library helping in various capacities to help put books in the hands of library patrons.