

Growing together through Marietta Community Reads

Staff reports

The Cobb Collaborative and Marietta City Schools invite families to read along with others in the community.

Marietta Community Reads is a program designed to have all young members of the community participating in shared reading. The Emily Lembeck Early Learning Center, along with 11 other childcare centers in Marietta, are focusing on the same books and themes for activities and learning each month. To help a child's "reading brain," they invite families to join in the journey.

In February, young students will answer the inquiry questions: How are things connected to each other and to the earth? What do all things need? and What is Safety?

As parents read with their children, they should think aloud, make predictions and talk about new words. This will build the children's inferential thinking skills, vocabulary and increase reading comprehension skills. Parents should engage in conversations with their children about how they and others keep them safe.

February's books are: "Rabbits and Raindrops" by Jim Arnosky, "Raccoon on his Own" by Jim Arnosky, "Chameleon's Colors" by Chisato Tashiro and "Desert Quails Hit Jungle Trails" by Amanda Irma Perez.

Families are encouraged to visit the public library or to find the books at a local store. The Switzer Branch has a display of books that focus on this month's theme. Here are some activities families can do together that focus on this month's theme:

- ◆ Make cards for community members, such as postmen, firemen, police, veterinarians, grocery store clerks, doctors, dentists, etc.
- ◆ Go on a treasure hunt around the house to identify what people need to survive. Find items that represent food, water, shelter and love.
- ◆ Go on a nature walk and discuss whether things the family runs into are living or non-living.
- ◆ Talk about the differences between living and non-living things.

As the local point of contact for the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, the Cobb Collaborative is pleased to increase awareness of this community-wide opportunity to develop strong readers.

If a business or organization is interested in learning more and promoting the Community Scope and Sequence by providing information and resources to families, contact Leslie Danford, Cobb Collaborative's Literacy Coordinator, at ldanford@cobbcollaborative.org.

The Cobb Collaborative is a membership of nonprofit organizations, local government, businesses, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, professional organizations, associations and citizens who share ideas, expertise and resources to improve outcomes for children and families in Cobb.

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