

WHAT'S NEW AT THE RESOURCE CENTER?

By *Dominique DeBorba*

Reading aloud to children is one of the most important things you can do to ensure their future success, and more Americans seem to be jumping on the read-aloud bandwagon. Kids of all ages benefit from being read to – even babies and toddlers! The benefits are so profound, and kids form so much of their intelligence potential during the early years of their life, that experts recommend reading aloud to your child as soon as he or she is born, and continuing indefinitely.

Many of the little ones who visit Harbor Regional Center Resource Center already have developmental challenges and stand even more to gain from the facts that:

- Reading to kids helps them with language and speech development
- It expands kids' vocabulary and teaches children how to pronounce new words
- Being read to builds children's attention spans and helps them hone their listening skills
- Kids learn appropriate behavior when they're read to, and are exposed to new situations, making them prepared when they encounter these situations in real life.

The Resource Center just acquired several new board books by the fantastic author Elizabeth Verdick, who seems to be able to get right to the heart of some of the challenges faced by all toddlers with direct simple text and colorful illustrations. Here is a sampling of some of her books.



Germs Are Not For Sharing – What to do? Cover up a sneeze or cough. Hug or blow kisses when you're sick. And most of all, wash your hands! Toddlers need to learn that germs are not for sharing. Child-friendly words and colorful illustrations help little ones stay clean and healthy.

Feet Are Not for Kicking –

“Look at those feet! Aren't they sweet!” In simple words and colorful pictures, this book helps little ones learn to use their feet for fun, not hurting others.



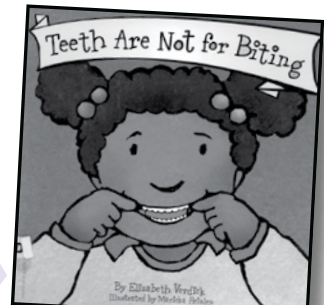
Tails Are Not for Pulling –

Toddlers and pets are adorable together – when toddlers know the basics of being kind to animals. Simple words and colorful illustrations encourage careful handling, awareness, and respect.



Teeth Are Not for Biting –

Simple words and charming pictures invite even the youngest child to discover better ways to cope with frustration, mouth pain, or mad, sad, or cranky feelings. Why? Because teeth are for smiling, not biting! Includes helpful hints for parents and caregivers.



Hands Are Not for Hitting –

It's never too early to learn about the many good things hands can do. This book invites even the youngest children to use their hands for fun and caring actions and to understand that hitting is never okay. ■

