

### Why all this information about early literacy?

Research supports reading, singing, and rhyming as the best activities parents and caregivers can do with their young child to get them ready to learn how to read. We incorporate those things into every story time. We take this opportunity to give you tips on what you can do as well as model for you some of the fun ways to bring music and books alive.

### Should we leave if my child gets too noisy during Story Time?

Children have differing sensory needs and listening skills. Depending on their stage of development and personality, sometimes a noisy or active child causes so much disturbance that others cannot hear or focus. So, if your child can't settle and listen, feel free to step out and then rejoin us when your child is ready. If you like, you could try again a different week. Each time they come, they learn more about what we do at Story Time.

### Is it OK to chat with my friend, or use my cell phone?

Unfortunately, your chatting becomes a distraction for others. During Story Time, please turn off your cell phone and have personal conversations after Story Time is over. We encourage you to come early or stay late and visit. Feel free to let your children interact with others and play for as long as you wish.

### Posting photos on social media:

We love to brag about our patrons and the fun things we do during Story Time. We often post pictures on our website or FB page so if you object to your child being included in the pictures, please let us know and we will honor that.



## at the Salem Twp Library

3007 142<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Burnips, MI 49314

Wednesdays at 11:00am  
September through May

Check out our website for the latest in  
Story Time happenings:

[www.burnips.llcoop.org/  
reading-programs/story-hour](http://www.burnips.llcoop.org/reading-programs/story-hour)

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What is Story Time?

Story time is for preschool-aged children. We welcome you and your child(ren) to join us. We enjoy books, poems, crafts, music and motion.

### When is Story Time?

Every Wednesday morning at 11:00am beginning in September and going through May. The exceptions would be holidays and/or closings due to weather conditions.

### It's Story Time. Why do we sing songs?

Just like a book, songs tell stories too. They also help promote early literacy skills, many of which you can duplicate at home.

### Do I have to sing along and do the motions with the librarian?

When you sing along or do a finger rhyme, you are showing your child what we are doing is not only fun, but also important. So, don't worry about being silly. We're just learning and having fun while we're at it!

### Why Yoga and Mindful Breathing?

Studies show there are several benefits to children practicing yoga and mindfulness. For our purposes here, it helps your little one(s) to calm themselves, relax their breathing and rein in their focus for better concentration.

Our mini yoga and breathing practices are based off of the books, *Good Morning Yoga* by Mariam Gates, *Breathe Like a Bear* by Kira Willey and *Alphabreaths* by Christopher Willard and Danial Rechtschaffen.

### What about crafts?

At Story Time, we give our young children many opportunities to develop their fine and gross motor skills, learn to follow directions, recognize letters, colors, etc. Most weeks there will be a craft with this in mind; so please let your child work on their creation as much as they are able.



### Will there be snacks?

Yes, nearly every week there is some type of snack. It's mostly something generic like smarties or fruit snacks. If your child has any food allergies, please let us know. We do not serve snacks with nuts of any kind during Story Time. We ask that snacks from home are not brought out for your child during story time – it takes the focus away from the stories; plus, other children might come asking you for some! (exception: cheerios for the very little ones.)

### Why does Story Time always feel the same each week?

It may be tiresome as adults to sing the same songs and follow the same routine each week. Even as the Story Time librarian it may be tempting to change things up every so often. However, routine is important for children. It helps them know what to expect and also helps them to feel more safe and secure. This then leads to confident children who are more independent. Their stress levels are down and they're more emotionally stable.